

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 UNDRR and the Hyogo Prefectural Government.

6.1 International Recovery Forum 2025

The International Recovery Forum 2025 concluded successfully in Kobe, Japan, on 28 January 2025. The event marked the 30th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. With the theme "Achieving Resilient Recovery in a Changing World: Reflecting on 30 Years Since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake", the Forum brought together 424 participants online and onsite from 56 countries, including disaster recovery experts, practitioners, and policymakers to reflect on three decades of recovery experiences and chart a path forward for strengthening recovery readiness globally.

Prof. KAWATA Yoshiaki opened the Forum with a keynote reflecting on Japan's evolving approach to disaster recovery and prevention. Drawing from decades of research and experience, he introduced the concept of "phase transition" as a metaphor for abrupt shifts in disaster impact, driven by population density and social dynamics. He warned that should a major event of the projected magnitude of the Nankai Trough Earthquake strike an unprepared population, there is a risk of societal collapse, emphasizing that creative recovery must continuously adapt to societal change and consider social cohesion and well-being as central indicators of success.

The first panel session brought together local leaders from communities affected by major earthquakes across Japan, sharing critical insights from their recovery experiences spanning three decades from the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. A central theme was the role of local leadership in managing recovery, with speakers noting that while national policies provide overarching frameworks, municipal and prefectural governments play the most sustained role in rebuilding efforts.

The discussion addressed long-term recovery challenges, particularly housing reconstruction and the social impacts of displacement, emphasizing that physical rebuilding alone is insufficient. Economic revitalization, community cohesion, and support for vulnerable populations must also be prioritized. Japan's experience has shown that aging populations in disaster-affected areas face unique challenges in rebuilding their homes and livelihoods, and these require targeted policies that go beyond standard recovery programmes.

Speakers emphasized that Japan's recovery model has evolved over time to incorporate lessons from past disasters, increasingly recognizing the need for adaptive recovery strategies that consider changing demographic, economic, and technological conditions. This includes greater use of data and digital tools for damage assessment and resource allocation, as well as efforts to institutionalize learning from previous recovery efforts to prevent repetition of past mistakes. However, coordination remains a challenge, particularly in aligning



Figure 6.1 Panellists of Session 1: Learning from Japan's Recovery

funding mechanisms with actual needs on the ground, where rigid national policies and funding structures can create obstacles for locally driven recovery efforts.

The second session brought together panellists from Nepal, Indonesia, the Philippines and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), offering insights into how different countries are preparing for disasters and overcoming persistent recovery challenges. While recovery experiences vary by country, common themes emerged—particularly around financial preparedness, governance structures, use of technology, and long-term resilience planning.

One focus of the discussion was the need for pre-arranged financial mechanisms to avoid reliance on slower-moving funds mobilized post-disaster. Indonesia's disaster pooling fund was presented as a model that allows for rapid access to recovery financing, reducing delays that often hinder post-disaster response. The Philippines' "Ready to Rebuild" programme was highlighted as a proactive approach that integrates hazard mapping with pre-disaster contingency financing and local government capacity building. Nepal's experience following the 2015 earthquake reinforced the importance of financial and governance mechanisms, as delays in mobilizing recovery funds had significant long-term consequences for affected communities.



Figure 6.2 Panellists of Session 2:
International Perspectives on Build Back Better

Speakers underscored the role of technology and data in improving recovery outcomes. Indonesia's use of GIS-based tools for post-disaster needs assessments and financial planning was cited as an example of how digital tools can enhance efficiency and transparency in reconstruction efforts. The Philippines' "Ready to Rebuild" programme incorporates the PlanSmart web application, an automated planning tool that enables local government units to systematically generate recovery plans using science-based information and standardized templates.

The session highlighted ongoing challenges of inter-agency coordination and challenges with bureaucratic fragmentation and lack of clarity over roles in recovery efforts. Nepal's experience showed that without clear coordination structures, even well-funded recovery efforts can face delays and duplication. A key takeaway was that recovery must be seen as a continuous process, with many recovery efforts focusing on infrastructure but failing to integrate long-term economic, social, and environmental resilience strategies. Countries that have institutionalized iterative learning—continuously refining policies based on past disasters—have made greater progress toward building back stronger.

6.2 The Development of Recovery Readiness Assessment Framework

UNDRR, under the umbrella of IRP and in partnership with the ADPC and the Center for Urban Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (CUDRR+R), developed the Recovery Readiness Assessment Framework. The development of the Framework represents an important step forward in equipping countries with a self-

assessment tool to capture their level of recovery readiness across four key dimensions: governance, finance, capacity, and knowledge.

As background, IRP was tasked with this work by the G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) to support member states in strengthening their preparedness for resilient recovery. The Framework development process included extensive consultation with partners and government representatives through regional consultations for Asia held in Manila in the Philippines, between 24 and 25 June 2024, and online for the Pacific on 15 August 2024. These consultations convened senior government representatives to identify priorities and explore opportunities for strengthening preparedness for resilient recovery, directly informing both the Framework development and the "Call to Action to Build Back Better by Investing in Recovery Readiness" launched at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.



Figure 6.3 Asian Regional Consultation

6.3 Understanding Risk Global Forum 2024

At Understanding Risk 2024 in Himeji in Japan held in June 2024, ADRC and the IRP jointly led a Focus Day session on "Building A Roadmap to Scale up Progress with Risk-Informed Recovery" that engaged recovery thought leaders and participants in developing practical strategies for recovery readiness. The session identified critical bottlenecks in the recovery process, including challenges communities face with envisioning longer-term goals for resilience and building back better, and the difficulty of balancing recovery speed with the need for safety and consensus building.



Figure 6.4 Panellists of IRP Session at Understanding Risk 2024

Discussions emphasized the need for pre-disaster recovery planning as an essential tool to mitigate post-disaster challenges. The session recommended developing integrating build back better principles into recovery plans, supported by legal frameworks to ensure inclusion of vulnerable populations. Participants called for enhanced capacity building for local and national government officials and underscored the importance of engaging communities in recovery planning before disasters strike.

6.4 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

In October 2024, ADRC and the IRP organized the Asia Pacific Resilient Recovery Dialogue at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) in Manila, the Philippines, convening Ministers and senior officials from across the region. This two-segment dialogue resulted in the adoption of the "Asia-Pacific Call to Action to Build Back Better by Investing in Recovery Readiness", a concrete commitment by regional governments to accelerate progress on Priority 4 of the Sendai Framework on DRR.



Figure 6.5 Resilient Recovery Dialogue at APMCDRR 2024

6.5 G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group Contributions

The IRP contributed to the organization of the G20 DRRWG thematic session on "Inclusive and Resilient Recovery" in Brazil in July 2024, in which countries shared their expertise and experience with recovery financing and capacity building approaches. The G20 DRRWG subsequently requested the IRP and the knowledge partners to develop the Recovery Readiness Assessment Framework.

6.6 Knowledge Management and Global Resource Hub

IRP secretariat continued to maintain the largest online database of recovery resources on the internet, significantly expanding its reach during this period. Throughout 2024, the IRP secretariat expanded the online library to more than 2,200 recovery-related publications, tools, and guidelines.

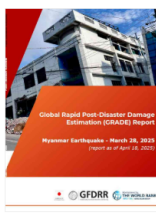


Documents and publications 3 June 2025

Priority actions to enhance readiness for resilient recovery

The Priority Actions to Enhance Readiness for Resilient Recovery are designed to take joined action to enhance readiness for resilient recovery to build back better by taking the following concrete actions to build a more resilient future for all.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)



Documents and publications 30 May 2025

Global Rapid Post-Disaster Damage Estimation (GRADE) Report: Myanmar earthquake - March 28, 2025

This GRADE report presents a rapid estimate of the direct economic damage to physical assets (building and infrastructure) from the moment magnitude (Mw) 7.7 earthquake that struck central Myanmar on March 28, 2025.

World Bank, the



Documents and publications 15 April 2025

Rapid Post-Disaster Needs Assessment survey for media institutions

The Rapid Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Survey for Media Institutions provides a structured framework for assessing the impact of a disaster on a given media outlet.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - Headquarters

Figure 6.6 IRP Website as repository of knowledge on recovery

6.7 Bosai Kokutai and Sendai Bosai Mirai Forum

At the National Disaster Risk Reduction Festival ("Bosai Kokutai") in Kumamoto, Japan in October 2024, IRP secretariat showcased its activities and distributed IRP's knowledge products, including its recovery guidance notes, the IRP Herald, and various knowledge products to promote building back better concepts. The IRP secretariat also participated in the 2024 Sendai Bosai Mirai Forum, hosting an exhibition booth sharing its work with domestic and international attendees.



Figure 6.7 IRP knowledge products