

World Conference on Disaster Reduction

Speech by Mr. KWON WOOK

Administrator of the NEMA, Republic of Korea, Kobe, January 19, 2005

Mr. Chairman. Ladies and Gentlemen;

Before sharing with you some of my thoughts, I would like to express my appreciation to you for the tremendous efforts that have gone into organizing and participating in this important event.

According to the WMO Annual Report, last year is ranked the fourth warmest year since meteorological records began in eighteen sixty one.

It also reveals that nine out of the last ten years are included in the warmest-year category, indicating that the temperature may continue to rise due to global warming.

The report warns that due to weather change, natural disasters such as typhoons, torrential rains, storm surges, heatwaves, and droughts will occur more frequently.

Last year, four hurricanes in Florida in just six weeks caused tremendous damage in the US and neighboring countries.

Japan also suffered from typhoons on more than ten occasions last year.

The pain did not end there.

