

Statement by Yoshinobu FUKASAWA, Deputy Executive Director,
Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI)
Speaking on behalf of Disaster Reduction Alliance

Mr. Chairman,

I am speaking here today on behalf of Disaster Reduction Alliance (DRA), which is a loose alliance of 13 disaster-related organizations in Kobe. Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI) functions the secretariat of DRA. Other Members include ADRC, Kobe offices of JICA, WHO and OCHA. The following initiatives are being initiated in the name of Disaster Reduction Alliance.

DRI is a unique earthquake museum, which was founded in commemoration of The 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. It aims at preserving and transferring live experiences and lessons of the local people, so we create better future.

Exposure to such exhibits and information impresses visitors greatly, and appears to motivate them extensively to practice concrete measures for their own life protection. This is very

important. We believe that the ultimate driving force of disaster reduction is personal commitment and motivation of each people.

We also hope that similar practices may be encouraged in other parts of the world as well, past disaster places in particular. Victims often want to forget, but their live lessons are invaluable to the world, not to mention to themselves.

With this in mind, we are pleased to inform the plenary that several museums and initiatives developed or being developed in commemoration of various past disasters of the world have agreed to establish an international partnership for transferring live lessons jointly. It will be called TeLL net. New partners are greatly welcome.

Moreover, in response to the UN Proposal on International Recovery Platform, we believe that TeLL net can well complement or even strengthen the proposed initiative, particularly from the point of view of information sharing on a people-to-people basis. In this respect, we greatly welcome the proposal.

Further more, in the wake of the Indian Ocean Rim Tsunami Disaster,

we note that thanks to TV media we can now watch a great wealth and diversity of video images of tsunami. This material is invaluable for tsunami awareness and education. There is no better awareness than to show people what happened. This is another important practice of transfer of live lessons.

With this in mind, we appeal to the international community and the international media in particular, to preserve and make freely available these images so they can be used for tsunami awareness and research, and ultimately for people's better future.

Thank you for your kind attention.