



KOBE REPORT draft
Report of Session 5.1, Thematic Cluster 5
From Research to Action

1. Summary of the session's presentations and discussions

The first presentation emphasized the problem of lack of school reinforcement against the earthquake disaster. Even in developed countries with high engineering expertise the schools are being still out of focus and would collapse in earthquake occurrence. The citizens initiatives like: Families for School Seismic Safety (www.fsssbc.org) may influence local governments to undertake and assessment of the school building. The FSSSBC in British Columbia has convinced the provincial government to undertake such assessment of the 864 school buildings within the zone of risk. Among those schools 311 were considered to be at high risk of sustaining damage in the event of the earthquake. In result, Premier made a 1.5 billion dollar commitment to getting all the schools mitigated within 15 years.

The second presentation emphasized the need to go from research to action through working out realistic, doable, usable and socio-economic and culturally acceptable actions. Good research work seems until it is combined with the implementation and good management. In order to achieve this goal we need to translate the knowledge into the form of "simplified options" that can answer socio-political and economic concerns. That requires not only "a multi-disciplinary approach" but also "big comprehensive educational program" for the people in charge of seismic risk reduction actions.

Third talk's topic was on financing risk losses in public sector. The instruments like Insurance reserve funds, contingent credit or cat bonds has been discussed on the example of Columbia and Mexico. The model for policymakers has been developed and is being implemented by IIASA.

The emphasis of the fourth talk was on how to transfer the knowledge that is in the university in the community. We all know what are the solutions but we do not know how to transferred them to the community. Initiative with cooperation with NGO in India has started in order to get to know and understand of how university knowledge is transferred into community

In order to get to know of how to promote risk reduction actions, how to document case studies how to use this principles. It is not only like that information flow is from the university to the community, it is co-learning, because community has a lot of tactical, indigenous knowledge that we can learn from. The goal is to set up the learning forum where we can indicate and share best practices on line. Local practitioners, government people they also are often not in touch with universities. The products are: Best practices principles, policy principles and trainings for local organizations and governments. Currently the model for on line training is being developed.

The World Bank Institute disaster risk management learning program available in English, Spanish and French. The goals of the program are ton increase proactive disaster management practices. The program is an on line program that makes it available for many people. The case studies that are the subject of research of participants are further incorporated into the courses as learning materials.

The last talk was concerned also on the issues of implementation of existent scientific knowledge. The emphasis was put on that scientist make research on what they like not on what is really needed or what is the real problems the "real world" is facing. Societies are not in the vacuum some are risk takes some not, we should start with early education practices.

Discussion was devoted to about lack of consideration of what local communities want to research about. On this conference there are no representatives of community people for example. The important is to get to the local level concentrate on particular problems and after some time share knowledge what was working and what was not. The response was that in fact it

is true but still there are some examples of demand oriented research especially as to floods and landslides. Not earthquakes.

Other question was related to the lack of scientific rigor in the presented materials.

The response was that it is difficult to present scientific results within 10 minutes, however there is a lots of science, seismology,, geology that is successfully incorporated in building codes. The problem is not lack of research but the problem is who is going to use it, how and who will pay? The lack of involvement of private sector in planning was another issue to be at stake, in this case international organizations should take some initiative in influencing policymakers.

The UNESCO or other agencies were proposed as the organizations that could make use of science accumulated and make it more implement able. We should make use of the institutions we already have to disseminate knowledge to the people. Make the knowledge understandable and simple.

The social and economical conditions and people daily life conditions should be included as well, for example the illegal workers in US after the earthquake, or Burmanese workers in Thailand after the tsunami, they did not search for any help because of punishment expected.

A comment was devoted to what has been already done the cases of Families School Seismic Safety and application of tools for financing disaster losses in Latin America was given as an examples.

2. Primary issues

- Consideration of local needs and end-users of risk management", concentration on local problems and small visible, working projects.
- The problem of development issues in risk management. The absence of private sector in planning.
- Who is going to make use of existing scientific knowledge, how and who will pay for it?
- Lack of representatives of private sector and communities in the conference.
- Doing science which is useful and understandable by the public.

3. Partnerships

List eventual partnerships launched in relation to the WCDR to support the implementation of the outcome

Agencies and NGO's with school seismic safety expertise

- UNCRD (United Nations Centre for Regional Development)
- GeoHazards International
- SEEDS – India (Sustainable environmental and ecological development)
- NSET – Nepal (National Society for Earthquake Technology)
- OECD Public Education Buildings (PEB)

Agencies that may use of existing science and knowledge
Unesco and other agencies.

4. Name, affiliation and contacts of presenters and titles of presentations

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Presentation title: Prioritizing Schools: Good Intentions But Miles To Go

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Presentation title: From Research To Action: Through a Realistic, Doable, Usable and Socio-economic and Culturally Acceptable Actions

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Presentation title: Financing Disaster Risk: Implementing Novel Ideas in Colombia and Mexico

4.

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Presentation title: Educating for Action: The World Bank Institute Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Learning Program

6.

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Presentation title: The Last Mile Earthquake Risk Mitigation Assistance in Developing Countries

5. Name, affiliation and contact of person filling in the form

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