KOBE REPORT draft

Regional Meeting: Asia

Summary of the session’s presentations and discussions

- The co chair, Dr. Chung Rae Kwon, UN/ESCAP, introduced the session as focusing on recent regional efforts in disaster reduction and the role of regional action in implementing the outcomes of WCDR.

- The presentations on cases of good practices in regional cooperation highlighted the following challenges:
  - Advocacy for shift in national policy thrust from post disaster response to pre-disaster prevention and risk reduction (West Asia)
  - Ensuring that disaster risk reduction is made a national and local priority with strong institutional basis for implementation (Central Asia)
  - Strengthening existing platforms and mechanisms for regional cooperation (Southeast Asia)
  - Establishment of regional mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of the WCDR plan of action (Northeast Asia)

- The comments of IAP members cited the following challenges and expectations on regional institutions:
  - promoting information exchange as key role of regional organizations (ADRC)
  - advocacy for disaster risk reduction at all levels involving all stakeholders (ADRC)
  - national capacity building, including the corporate sector (ADRC)
  - sustaining ongoing cooperation and partnerships in disaster risk reduction and focusing on mainstreaming disaster reduction into development, enhancing effectiveness of existing mechanisms and promoting new mechanisms like the RCC (ADPC)
  - Sharing experiences, lessons learned and good practice on policy, legal and institutional arrangements, and planning for disaster reduction (ADPC)
  - mobilizing resources in the region for disaster risk reduction initiatives (UN/OCHA)
  - developing platforms for cooperation in sharing of knowledge and experiences (UN/OCHA)
  - integrating risk reduction into development planning and practice (ISDR)
- review of framework for strengthening capacities at the regional and local levels (ISDR)
- designation of regional disaster risk reduction advisers in Asia (UNDP)
- facilitating rapid deployment of experts for recovery planning (UNDP)
- defining targets for regional efforts towards attainment of millennium development goals (UN/ESCAP)
- role and consistency of training in regional cooperation (UNDP)
- strengthening existing national and intergovernmental mechanisms for cooperation and coordination (ASEAN)
- an organizational commitment to support input of WCDR outcomes at regional and national levels and work closely with intergovernmental regional institutions (ADPC)

4. Primary issues

The session conveyed the following key elements for successful implementation of regional cooperation efforts in Asia:

- strengthening existing platforms and mechanisms for regional and multilateral cooperation

- involvement of national disaster coordinating bodies and national planning agencies as focal points for policy advocacy and implementation of WCDR program of action at national and sub-regional levels

- framework for regional and sub-regional cooperation in the implementation of WCDR program of action

5. a) Suggested targets and indicators to measure accomplishments

- framework for regional and sub-regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction in Asia

- plan of action for the implementation of the WCDR program of action in Asia

- acceptance of roles and responsibilities of advancing national action by regional organizations and coordinated work through existing mechanisms including the ISDR Asia Partnership

b) Existing indicators with reference

- regional mechanism and platform for cooperation in disaster risk reduction (ISDR Asia Partnership)
- regular conferences and meetings on disaster risk reduction (RCC, Program Framework for Mainstreaming DRM into development planning, and implementation (ADPC), Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ADRC), series of meetings of regional organizations and regional offices of UN and other agencies)

- multilateral activities and cooperation programs (ASEAN/ACDM, ADPC)

6. Partnerships

- ISDR Asian Partnership (ADPC, ADRC, UNDP/BCPR, UNESCAP, UN/ISDR, OCHA)

- ASEAN/ACDM: INSARAG, ADPC, RCC, ADRC,ICIMOD, Duryog Nivaran, IFRC RDMC, MRC, TC/TCP, ADRRN, ARF-ISMDR, ASOEN-HTTF, SAARC

7. Any other relevant and brief comments

8. a) Name, affiliation and contacts of presenters and titles of presentation

- Dr. Chung Rae Kwon (UN/ESCAP)
- Dr. Seyed Mahmood Fatami Aghda (Natural Disaster Research Institute, Iran)
- Mr. Khusav Sharifov (UNDP Tajikistan)
- Mr. Peou Samy (ACDM)
- Dr. Wang Zhenyao (National Disaster Reduction Center, China)
- Mr. Loy Rego (ADPC)
- Helena Molin Valdes (ISDR)
- Mr. M. Kitamoto (ADRC)

b) Name, affiliation and contacts of person filling in the form

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