



**UNCRD**

Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office

Rehabilitation of Afghanistan

# Proceedings

Community Sustainability

International Workshop 2003  
Earthquake Safer World in the 21st Century III

People, Communities, and Disasters



# UNCRD

International Workshop 2003  
国際ワークショップ 2003  
Earthquake Safer World in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century III

**People, Communities, and Disasters**

**Inter Roles and Responsibilities :**

**People, Communities, and Disasters**

Roles and Responsibilities

## Proceedings

国際ワークショップ 2003  
地震にまけない世界へ向けてⅢ :

～ひと・まち・きずな～

**KOBE, 30 Jan - 1 Feb 2003**

30 January - 1 February, 2003

Organized by UNCRD/Division of Regional Development, Hyogo Office  
Hyogo Prefecture  
Kobe City  
The Yomiuri Shimbun  
Citizens towards Overseas Disaster Emergency (CODE)

Supported by The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Research Institute  
NTT Data Corporation

### Organized by

United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)  
Hyogo Prefecture, Kobe City, The Yomiuri Shimbun  
Citizens towards Overseas Disaster Emergency (CODE)

### Supported by

The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Research Institute  
NTT Data Corporation, NTT Data Community Produce Corporation

## **Editor**

**Kenji Okazaki**

**Rajib Shaw**

**Eiko Narita**

## **Design and Layout**

**Ayako Fujieda**

## **Note:**

---

Opinions expressed are those of the presentors and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Secretariat or of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development.

Designations employed and presentations of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatever on the part of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development, concerning the legal status of any country or territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

# CONTENTS

<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	i
<b>PROLOGUE</b>	i
<b>PREFACE</b>	ii
<b>WORKSHOP PROGRAM</b>	v
<b>WORKSHOP ORGANIZING TEAM</b>	viii
<b>I. COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY</b>	<b>1</b>
INTRODUCTION	3
SPECIAL MESSAGES	4
KEY TERMS	6
1. DISASTER AND COMMUNITY	7
Experience of Nepal	
Experience of Indonesia	
Experience of Bangladesh	
Experience of Cambodia	
Experience of India	
Experience of the Philippines	
2. DISASTER AND PEOPLE	12
Trust and Cooperation Amongst People and Government	
People Save People	
Inequality in Development = Disaster Vulnerability	
3. DISASTER AND EDUCATION	17
Strong & Safe School Buildings - A Key Element	
Non-Structural Mitigation	
Education Programme	
4. POST DISASTER INITIATIVES	21
What Kobe Experienced and Learned	
Strengthening of Social Fabric: Through Community Institutions	
The Role of Culture	
Capacity Building	
Preparedness	
5. KEY PHRASES RAISED AT THE WORKSHOP	29
6. PROFILES OF PRESENTERS	31

<b>II. REHABILITATION OF AFGHANISTAN</b>	<b>41</b>
INTRODUCTION	43
BRIEF HISTORY	44
SPECIAL MESSAGES	48
1. HOUSING, BUILDING AND URBAN PLANNING	52
Current Challenges	
Major Issues in Afghanistan	
Problems and Challenges in Achieving These Goals	
2. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN AFGHANISTAN DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD	59
Basic Needs	
Livelihood	
Future Issues of NGO	
3. WOMEN'S ISSUES	65
4. ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION	67
Preventing Dependency	
UNCRD - Supporting Afghanistan Into Interdependency	
5. PROFILES OF PRESENTERS	74
<b>APPENDIX</b>	
CD-ROM	

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The workshop was a joint endeavor of many people over a long time. It was organized by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), Hyogo Prefecture, Kobe City, the Yomiuri Shimbun and Citizens towards Overseas Disaster Emergency (CODE), with support from The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Research Institute, NTT Data Corporation, and NTT Data Community Produce Corporation. The Governor of the Hyogo Prefecture and the Mayor of the Kobe City kindly participated in the workshop to deliver opening remarks. We are grateful to all the participants, whose presentations, inputs and comments have made the workshop successful. We are thankful to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and International Institute for Disaster Risk Management (IDRM) for sponsoring and arranging the trip of five members of Afghan delegation. Lastly, we deeply acknowledge the voluntary work of the university students and the spontaneous participation of the citizens of Hyogo prefecture.

## PROLOGUE

This year's Proceedings is slightly different than the previous volumes published subsequent to each year's International Workshops organized by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office. The unique procession of the Proceedings is attributed to the participants' speeches that come in the form executive summaries. In a sense, this year's Proceedings pursue a holistic approach by extracting the essence of their speeches rather than transcribing their literal words. In case readers want to see the participants' speeches, as they were spoken, they are kept in the attached CD-Rom.

By condensing the speeches down to their critical messages, the Proceedings become a kind of quick reference of ideas that were displayed at the Workshop. These ideas and profound thoughts surface loud and clear in summaries rather than in transcriptions of formal speeches where the critical points can easily hide beneath culmination of words and phrases at great length.

The overarching goal of these Proceedings is to highlight the fruitful dialogues and important issues raised by both the international experts and the audience at this year's Workshop who gathered under a common interest of making this world an earthquake-safer place.

## PREFACE

Natural disasters are recurring events in many countries. Earthquakes, floods, and cyclones occur every year throughout the globe, causing significant damage to life and property. Disaster mitigation and management processes should vary in different countries according to their respective cultural and social backgrounds. While it is very important to consider disaster issues at the national, provincial, and city level, it will remain largely ineffective if consideration does not extend to the level of the community and the individual.

Today, people are very much concerned about their environment, and this issue has been successfully prioritized in many high-level meetings among heads of state and/or among international organizations such as the United Nations. However, this was not the case as recently as twenty to thirty years ago. Continued efforts, both at the individual and organizational levels, have made this possible. Thus, people's involvement and commitment is very important for the success of the overall effort.

The United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), emphasizes "human security" as one of its major focus areas. Under the human security umbrella, the UNCRD Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office is involved in the safety and sustainability of communities through disaster preparedness and mitigation. Following its inception in 1999, the office conducted several projects with the theme of community involvement and participation. Three keywords were integral to these projects: self-help; cooperation; and education.

The office is currently concerned with the sustainability of community-based disaster management in developing countries. Focusing on sustainability of community initiatives is the way to bring disaster issues into the purview of day-to-day problems, and represents a road map for the prioritizing of disaster initiatives at the individual level. Six countries in Asia are being studied for this purpose. The goal is to find ways to disseminate best practice examples in different areas, and how to draw up a framework of action at the community level.

Reconstruction of Afghanistan is another area which is receiving significant attention from all over the world. Afghanistan needs to develop its human resources. Here, the Hyogo Office is trying to develop a human resource development programme focusing on training and capacity-building at the community level for earthquake-safer construction practices, as this country is in one of the most earthquake-prone regions of the world.



In the above context, the International Workshop on *"People, Communities and Disasters: Roles and Responsibilities"* aimed to throw light on disaster issues at the individual and community level, and sought to examine how people's needs and priorities could be integrated with disaster reduction initiatives. In this regard, the experiences of the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake of 1995 had much to offer.

The first two days of the workshop focused on the sustainability issues of community-based disaster management. Representatives of six countries presented their views and experiences of grass-roots projects for different types of hazards. The roles of people were discussed based on the experiences of Bangladesh, Fiji, and Japan. It was agreed that education is the key element in disaster reduction initiatives. Maiko High School in Kobe, Japan, is the pioneering school in this regard, having initiated and conducted disaster and environmental courses. Similar efforts are being initiated in Turkey and India, following the devastating earthquakes of 1999 and 2001, respectively. Lastly, the experiences of Japan, Taiwan Province of China, and India were discussed together with their implications for pre-disaster mitigation activities in other parts of the world.

The third day of the workshop focused on the recovery and reconstruction process in Afghanistan. The current problems were emphasized in the speeches by the President of the Office of Disaster Preparedness (ODP) and the Deputy Minister from the Ministry of Urban Planning and Housing (MUPH). The gender issue was a focus area in the reconstruction of the country. UNCRD, in collaboration with NGO groups from Kobe and Afghanistan initiated a project on the safety and sustainability of human lives and livelihood, emphasizing earthquake-safer non-engineered construction methods. All these experiences were summarized during panel discussions which highlighted priority needs for the future.

In total, 450 people participated in the workshop, including professionals, representatives of governments, NGOs, and academic and international organizations from twelve countries, as well as students, teachers, and citizens of Hyogo Prefecture. The workshop proceedings detail the discussions over three days, and highlight the major issues and concerns for effective disaster mitigation initiatives. We hope that earthquake-threatened communities, professionals, practitioners, and international organizations will find these proceedings useful.



Kazunobu Onogawa  
Director  
UNCRD





## WORKSHOP PROGRAM



### January 30, 2003 Thursday

- 09:00-15:00**      **Group Discussion on UNCRD Project:  
'Sustainability in Community Based Disaster Management'**
- 12:00-13:00      Working Lunch
- 15:00-18:00      Kobe Expert Group Meeting

January 31, 2003 Friday

09:00-09:20

**Registration**

09:20-09:50

**Opening and Introduction**

09:20-09:30

Welcome Address

**Kenji Okazaki** Coordinator, UNCRD Hyogo Office

09:30-09:40

Introductory Remarks

**Tatsuo Yada** Mayor, Kobe City

09:40-09:50

Opening Remarks

**Yasuo Itagaki** President, The Yomiuri Shimbun

09:50-12:00

**Topic 1: Disaster and Community**

Chair: **Rajib Shaw**, UNCRD

09:50-10:00

CBDM: Issues and Challenges

**Rajib Shaw**

UNCRD

10:00-10:20

Country Experiences: Nepal

**Amod Dixit**

NSET-Nepal

10:20-10:40

Country Experiences: Indonesia

**Harkunti Rahayu**

ITB

10:40-11:00

Country Experiences: Bangladesh

**Sajedul Hassan**

CARE Bangladesh

11:00-11:20

Country Experiences: Cambodia

**Uy Sam Ath**

Cambodian Red Cross

11:20-11:40

Country Experiences: India

**Manu Gupta**

SEEDS

11:40-12:00

Country Experiences: Philippines

**Jerome Casals**

IDRM

12:00-13:00

**Lunch**

13:00-14:00

**Topic 2: Disaster and People**

Chair: **Patrick Safran**, ADB

13:00-13:20

Role of people and community

**Makoto Matsumoto**

Journalist, Kobe, Japan

in disaster recovery in Kobe

13:20-13:40

Role of people and community

**Saidur Rahman**

BDPC, Bangladesh

in disaster preparedness and mitigation in Bangladesh

13:40-14:00

Role of people and community

**Atu Kaloumaira**

SOPAC, Fiji

in disaster preparedness and mitigation in the Pacific Islands:

14:00-15:00

**Topic 3: Disaster and Education**

Chair: **Selji Suwa**,

Maiko High School, Japan

14:00-14:20

From the student to the would-be disaster expert: self-experience:

**Junko Nakashima**

Student, Maiko High School

14:20-14:40

Hyogo-Gujarat Friendship Fund: progress and current status:

**Anand Arya**

GSDMA, India

14:40-15:00

Disaster education and people's participation:

**Marla Petal**

Bosphorus University, Turkey

15:00-15:30

**Tea Break**

15:30-17:30

**Panel Discussion:**

**Community initiatives after the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake, and its implication to other areas**

Moderator: **Sanny Jegillos**

IDRM, Philippines

Panelists: **Tetsuo Inoue**

Kobe Citizen Disaster Research Institute, Japan

**Kotaro Yasui**

Kobe Safety Net, Japan

**Miyuri Kato**

CBDM Committee, Shizuoka, Japan

**David Chang**

The YMCA's of Taiwan, Taiwan

**V. Thiruppugazh**

GSDMA, India

## February 1, 2003 Saturday

- 09:30-10:40**      **Opening and Introduction**
- 09:30-09:40      Welcome Address      **Kazunobu Onogawa** Director, UNCRD
- 09:40-09:50      Introductory Remarks      **Toshizo Ido** Governor, Hyogo Prefecture
- 09:50-10:15**      **Keynote Address**      Chair: **Kenji Okazaki**, UNCRD
- 09:50-10:15      Keynote Address 1:      **Haji Qazi Taajuddeen Seddiq**  
President, Office of Disaster Preparedness (ODP)  
Government of Afghanistan
- 10:15-10:40      Keynote Address 2:      **Nasir Saberi**  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Urban Development and Housing  
Government of Afghanistan
- 10:40-11:00**      **Tea Break**
- 11:00-12:00**      **Topic 1: Community Rehabilitation in Afghanistan**
- 11:00-11:20      Experiences of post conflict recovery and rehabilitation:      Chair: **Terje Skavdal**, UN OCHA
- 11:20-11:40      Experiences of community rehabilitation and role of women in the rehabilitation process:      **Hiroshi Imai** Peace Winds, Japan
- 11:40-12:00      Comments and Discussion      **Mina Ghalib** Ministry of Women's Affairs  
Government of Afghanistan
- 12:00-13:00**      **Lunch**
- 13:00-15:30**      **Topic 2: Disaster Reduction in the context of rehabilitation**
- 13:00-13:20      Overall project concept and outline:      Chair: **Ian Wilderspin**, IFRC
- 13:20-13:40      Community initiative:      **Rajib Shaw** UNCRD
- 13:40-14:00      Shelter program in the earthquake affected areas:      **Masakiyo Murai** NGOs Kobe, Japan
- 14:00-15:30      **Panel Discussion: Needs with future perspective**  
Moderator:      **Lutf Rahman** Shelter for Life (SFL), Afghanistan  
Panelists:      **Fainula Rodriguez** IDRM, Philippines  
                  **Nasir Saberi** MUDH, Afghanistan  
                  **Lutf Rahman** SFL, Afghanistan  
                  **Mina Ghalib** MWA, Afghanistan  
                  **Yoshiteru Murosaki** Kobe University, Japan  
                  **Masakiyo Murai** NGOs Kobe, Japan
- 15:30-16:00**      **Tea Break**
- 16:00-17:30**      **Topic 3: Afghanistan in nostalgia: "Kabul Nikki" (Journal of Kabul)**
- 16:00-16:40      Documentary Film on Afghanistan      Chair: **Masami Kobayashi**  
Kyoto University
- 16:40-17:30      Commentary from the Film Director      **Noriaki Tsuchimoto**

## WORKSHOP ORGANIZING TEAM

### Workshop Organizing Committee

Kenji Okazaki, (Chair)	UNCRD
Shinji Kawaguchi	Yomiuri Shimbun
Masami Kobayashi	Kyoto University
Toru Nakaegawa	CODE
Yoshiyuki Yoshimoto	Hyogo Prefecture
Toshiaki Takahashi	Kobe City
Muneaki Nishikage, (Auditor)	Hyogo Prefecture

### Workshop Secretariat

UNCRD	CODE
Kenji Okazaki	Toru Nakaegawa
Rajib Shaw	Yuki Doi
Kazushi Maki	
Eiko Narita	
Yuko Nakagawa	
Yuriko Tsunehiro	
Ayako Fujieda	
Koichi Shiwaku	



## **COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY**







# I. COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY



## INTRODUCTION

'Community' is a word with a long sociological history in its background. In the late nineteenth century, a German sociologist Ferdinand Tönnies distinguished the term into two separate words, "*Gemeinschaft*" and "*Gesellschaft*", adding two separate connotations within the term "community". The former denoted a more organic, instinctive driving force of personal relationships, exemplified by families and human relationships. The latter emphasized essential will, purposeful and goal oriented, often exemplified by cities and states.<sup>1</sup> The two terms fulfill different purposes and neither one is wrong or correct. The real purpose in distinguishing the term centers around the notion of being able to treat a community with appropriate thoughts and actions.

At the international workshop of 2003, "People, Communities and Disasters", experts from around the world gathered to revisit the term "community" in the context of sustainable disaster management. Through presentations and panel discussions, the participants reviewed the essence of communities and their role, purpose, capacity and driving force largely from the perspective of enhancing a community's sustainability in disaster prone areas. All the participants encouraged rich inter-communication that allowed each person at the workshop to re-evaluate the purpose of a community and the methods by which it can sustain and develop further.

<sup>1</sup> Community and Society: *Gemeinschaft und Gesellschaft* by Ferdinand Tönnies, translated and edited by Charles P. Loomis, pp. 223-231. Copyright 1957, The Michigan State University Press.

## SPECIAL MESSAGES



### Introductory Remarks

Tatsuo Yada (Mayor, Kobe City)



Eight years have passed since the day the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake shook the city of Kobe. Much devastation took place, and many lives were lost in the course of this event. Subsequent to the disaster, the city of Kobe took various measures to reconstruct and rehabilitate the city and its communities.

In the recovery process, Kobe rediscovered and reconfirmed the significance of community bond. The bond between people, nurtured through small deeds on a daily basis, carries weight during times of disaster when neighborhoods rely on each other for help and support. Moreover, such recognition must continue to persevere in the minds of future generations, which is incumbent upon the community of the status quo to start the process.

Encouragingly enough, such recognition is not unique only to Kobe but also to various cities around the world. The general consensus around the world has begun to value community participation and collaboration amongst neighborhood people as the key components in the course of reconstruction and rehabilitation of a disaster-torn city. As many nations experience similar consequences from natural disasters global knowledge-sharing will add to the efforts of disaster management within each nation.

At this year's International Workshop representatives from around the world will share their precious experiences of disaster management in various parts of the world. Their field experiences in relation to the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake will instigate further discussions with the audience, resulting in precious lessons learned at this event.

## Opening Remarks

Yasuo Itagaki (President, The Yomiuri Shimbun Osaka)



As a major Japanese news media that has vocalized all aspects of citizens' lives, the prime objective of the *Yomiuri Shimbun* of Japan was to reflect on the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995 and call out the lessons learned from it at a global level. Even eight (8) years after this disastrous event, readers submit their personal experiences of the incident and express their compelling thoughts regarding the importance of disaster awareness.

This act is telling of the extent of how the earthquake shook the city beyond the ground itself. In light of such incident, the Yomiuri Shimbun has participated in this effort by sponsoring the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Workshop, which is organized by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development Hyogo Office, Hyogo Prefecture, and Kobe City.

The past two years of such International Workshop proved to be fruitful as innovative ideas eventually led to tangible results. For example, the attendee of last year's Workshop, a high school in Kobe, started a partnership with a school in Nepal under a common interest of disaster reduction. Also, several programmes focusing on human resource development started in Afghanistan as a reconstruction strategy. These activities are the grounding mechanism for knowledge-sharing and public participation at a community level, which is one of the key topics of the International Workshop this year.

Natural disasters infringe upon various communities without a warning and without regards to political borders. Hence, the presentations regarding disaster management anticipated through discussions and dialogues between the international representatives and the audience made here should echo beyond the confines of the workshop setting and into the world for others to hear.



## KEY TERMS



## 1. DISASTER AND COMMUNITY



Sustainability is an important element for disaster management. Without sustainability, disaster management efforts will not persevere. Without perseverance, these efforts will be ineffective. A critical element of sustainable disaster management is communities' participation in these activities. Without communities' understanding, interest, and most of all their willing commitment, disaster management efforts would not be sustainable. To achieve such synergy in communities, community-based disaster management activities play an extremely important role in this process. The emphasis of disaster management efforts should focus on communities and the people who live in them. There needs to be an opportunity where people can be involved from the initial programming stage of disaster management activities. Through these community-based activities, people should be able to participate alongside government officials and expert groups as the direct stakeholders to these activities. Such process of citizen participation induces a sense of ownership in people, hence, their interest in making a long-term commitment to these activities. This is how sustainability in disaster management can be achieved.

In an effort to understand peoples' capabilities and responsibilities in the course of establishing sustainable disaster management initiatives, UNCRD started a project, "Sustainability in Community Based Disaster Management" on three distinct types of natural disasters. Three major disasters were researched in six (6) different countries of India and the Philippines (Cyclones), Indonesia and Nepal (Earthquakes) and Bangladesh and Cambodia (Flood). This portion of the document recounts their activities and the lessons learned from the project.

## Experience of Nepal

One of the most effective strategies in an effective disaster management mechanism is to heighten people's awareness of risk, especially for those who live in disaster-prone areas. Without people's recognition and acknowledgment of risk, even the most sophisticated strategies would neither suffice nor save lives when disasters occur. In especially disaster-prone areas, a capricious and ambivalent disaster activities would hardly influence people's awareness. In such areas, government and non-government organizations should strive to create a localized "culture of disaster preparedness" for their residents. In other words the notion of disasters and the consequent management system should become a part of their lives similar to their cultural heritage like traditional weaving, crafting, and singing.

To establish such "culture", various stakeholders of disaster-related initiatives should first prioritize their goals and objectives. For example in Nepal, earthquake awareness activities were deployed through various methods that were simple for local communities to understand and culturally familiar to them. Using media, people were informed about earthquakes. Art contests, using "earthquakes" as a theme, were held for children. Street performances describing earthquake activities were displayed in public.

Furthermore, earthquake risk management process was institutionalized at the local government level. Local government officers were trained by expert group, namely NSET-Nepal, so that they were knowledgeable about earthquakes and the risk in their communities. Given the training and the political authority, the local government formed "Disaster Management Committees" in each ward, by incorporating neighborhood residents and other local organizations, to establish a long-term strategic plan for earthquake management. This type of synergy provided incentive for both the government and the community people to work towards effective earthquake safety measure in Nepal.



## Experience of Indonesia

The recent change of decentralization in government structure brought about some large changes in disaster management activities in Indonesia. The significance of such change lies in the transition from a strictly centralized process of disaster management to a more open process where an individual can take an active role in disaster management activities. On one hand, decentralization gives an opportunity for an individual to participate in a decision-making process. On the other hand, it can hinder coordination amongst people as a community for a collective effect.

In Indonesia's case, a local government and a research institution collaborated to establish programmes where communities would be better served by this political change. In the city of Bengkulu, its local government and a team from the Institute of Technology, Bandung took advantage of this political opportunity to collaborate on community-based disaster management activities. These two constituents took a holistic approach in deploying community-based activities focusing on proper disaster education for the community residents and trainings for trainers to enhance their disaster management knowledge and skills.

Nevertheless, decentralization, as with any paradigm shift, is an incremental process. The effects of decentralization surfaces only after years of commitment and hard work. In the meanwhile, local communities and their government need to promote and implement other initiatives in tandem to establish more meaningful community-based activities to increase political will at the government level and empowerment of local communities at the grass-roots level. Such collaboration at the micro level is crucial in achieving sustainability in disaster management.





## Experience of Bangladesh

Community-based participation is essential to a successful disaster management programme. Hence, programmes need to actively involve communities by capitalizing on their inherent potential for growth and stability. Constituents from both the public and private sectors should seek out inbuilt community assets to developing disaster management strategies rather than enforce an artificial mechanism unfamiliar and indifferent to the local culture. The potentials come in various forms depending on communities' geo-political condition and cultures. These are the key elements that governments and their counterparts need to acknowledge in their work and culminate in their initiatives. Successful community-based initiatives are derived by understanding communities' inherent potential for growth and stability.

As a result of such process local residents can better relate to, understand, trust, and retain newly formulated disaster-related programmes. Even the most profoundly woven programme will fail a community in the instances of disaster if people do not want to participate. Local residents must be able to actively participate and show willingness to continue with the programmes if they were to be sustainable, hence, long-term solutions against disasters. Consistency is a constant within successful programmes.



## Experience of Cambodia

Cambodia has experienced cases of severe floods, drought and forest fires that have had socially and economically damaging effects on the country. Through these experiences in Cambodia, the Cambodian Red Cross has been implementing community-based disaster preparedness programmes since 1999. In implementing community-based activities, the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) learned several important lessons that lead to its achievement in successful sustainable disaster preparedness programmes at the community level.

In Cambodia the CRC learned that community-based management programmes need to be managed well in order for them to sustain as a long-term disaster preparedness solution. For example, an organizational structure with clearly defined roles and responsibility added to the effectiveness of community-based activities, from the national to the village level. In Cambodia, there are designated activities run by designated counterparts, just as the CRC has its specific roles at the designated jurisdictional level. The CRC has several different roles at the various jurisdictional levels, from the provincial to the grass-roots level. Its activities adjust to the needs at each level so that its collective efforts lead to the "micro-solutions" at the community level.

Also, Well-managed programmes need to be both feasible, respectable, and practical at all levels. For example, the CRC learned that infeasible projects that only last for a few years are ineffective and unsustainable. Without appropriate supply of resources, "micro-projects" such as road raising, land improvement and other infrastructural work could not last. Similarly, projects need to be "respectable" to gain political will and support. The commitment is required at the fundamental level since the government determines the national priorities. Finally, practicality is required of sustainable community-based projects since the local villagers, as the ultimate end-users, need to be able to continue these projects throughout generations. In effect, projects need to be easy and affordable for the local residents to adopt and apply in their communities. Sustainable projects often depend on how useful and meaningful they are to the people within the communities.





## Experience of India



As the famous saying goes, "think globally, act locally", large-scale aid deployed by international organizations and national governments for the purpose of community rehabilitation need to reach the local residents. Often international counterparts and government offices intervene in post-disaster activities by initiating great wealth of rehabilitation programmes only to have the majority of allocated resources evaporate even before reaching the community residents who need them the most. Hence, aiding organizations need to find an effective system that follows the mission to fulfill the needs of people who have been victimized by disasters. Such system requires sound political streamlining and strategic management skills. Therefore, strategic planning is important for relief organizations to undertake and implement.

In addition, for the purpose of using resources efficiently, organizations should find ways to incorporate already-existing programmes into the strategic planning rather than reinventing the wheel to conjure a completely new programme. If any exists, time and energy should be spent to ameliorate those programmes that are already incorporated in the communities. Also, training programmes for the purpose of capacity building is another key element to strategic planning that organizations should implement. Both public officials at a municipal level and local residents should have the opportunity to attend these events.

Finally, another important aspect of strategic planning for international organizations at a more macro level is to share the best practices they have seen and implemented to other parts of the world. The simple act of disseminating and promoting success stories contribute to enhancing global disaster preparedness. Mainstreaming a "good disaster management" practice can lead to effective disaster prevention at other parts of the world.



## Experience of the Philippines

The roles of international organizations are many in assisting various communities around the world for disaster management. Of the many types of aid implemented, financial aid alone lacks the capability to realize sustainable disaster management system. The experience of a Filipino city of Guagua substantiates this case. Guagua, unlike some of its neighboring cities, has achieved disaster management at the community level without much external assistance. In fact, for the past decade, Guagua has established a very tight community network to establish solid disaster management and preparedness activities.

First and foremost, Guagua's approach towards community-based disaster management is broader to the extent that its efforts at the community level encourage participation from people beyond the village residents. Workers such as public transport operators, religious representatives, to local business organizations actively participate in the disaster management activities at the community level.

Also, in Guagua the local politicians have committed to institutionalizing community-based disaster management through the intermingling of government officers and the public. The mayor's office established a local "multi-sectoral" development council where politicians and public citizens discuss the development issues of Guagua. The significant aspect of the council's discussions lie in their comprehensive nature of incorporating numerous development issues in the course of disaster management planning. Through this process disaster management became an important element of the overall development strategies in Guagua.

Furthermore, these council meetings eventually worked to build "trust" amongst the group members and acted as a key element in community-based disaster management activities that have sustained in Guagua for over a decade.



## 2. DISASTER AND PEOPLE



People's role in disaster management has been studied and tested through several pre-disaster mitigation and post-disaster rehabilitation activities in different parts of the world. This topic will focus on the role of communities and the individuals within communities.

After the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995 (henceforth called the Kobe earthquake) Kobe's rehabilitation programmes came in numerous shapes and forms, of which "People's Rehabilitation Plan" is one of such efforts developed by the resident associations, NGOs/NPOs and the local governments.

In Bangladesh, years worth of experience in cyclone and floods instigated active grass-roots movement that sought after effective disaster coping mechanism. Throughout the years, these community based disaster management activities are taking on a new shape in Bangladesh whereby the national government is recognizing the importance and the value of people participation in the policy and decision-making process.

The Pacific Islands have been working towards achieving a political paradigm shift in the field of disaster management: from post-disaster response to pre-disaster risk management that operates in synch with national and local development policies.

## Trust and Cooperation Amongst People and Government



(photo: NGOs Kobe)

In Kobe's case a certain degree of social and political distance had continued between the municipal government and the residents as a result of political apathy amongst the residents as a community as a whole. Similarly, the government had accepted such communal apathy as the "status quo" until the event of the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake. The apathy caused by the lack of communication was interrupted when the Earthquake disrupted the lives of so many in extremely short amount of time. The tremor took the lives of nearly 6,000 lives. The recovery and reconstruction work of Kobe was an overwhelming task for the city in all ways. Nonetheless, it was in this process of recovery and reconstruction that both the residents and the government realized the importance of collaboration.

Subsequent to the Earthquake, over 100 "town meetings" took place where community residents and the government offices discussed, debated, and envisioned the redevelopment plan of Kobe. In relatively short amount of time participatory planning that encouraged community participation had begun to take place. They established frequent forums where resident and the politicians shared ideas and discussed about future development, including disaster management issues. Furthermore, training programmes emerged in community centers where residents actively participated in disaster preparedness activities.

Over time the increased community participation in the redevelopment process of Kobe enhanced the citizens' will to "get involved". People were empowered to participate in the planning process of their own city, and this in turn increased Kobe's local governance. Through this experience, both Kobe's citizens and the politicians realized the importance of communication between the people and the politicians. Communication became the process by which people and the government built their mutual trust.

The strong rapport established through communication built a sense of camaraderie between the citizens and the local government, a kind of partnership that enhanced localism in Kobe. A stronger sense of local governance has since been increasing as communities have enhanced their participation in the decision-making process at the government level. Over time localism in Kobe grew and synergy between the government and the citizens strengthened. Nonetheless, strong local governance is difficult to achieve, as Kobe has been experiencing. A successful local governance requires balanced distribution of labor, authority and resources.

More opportunities of government and non-government partnership at the community level is required for local governance to flourish. The government needs to provide more opportunities for citizens to act and participate in the decision-making process at the government level. Also, decentralization is an important component of strong local governance. Japan is still a country of strong central government. Yet, such political climate should gradually shift so that local policies can be determined at the local level.



(photo: NGOs Kobe)

## People Save People



While the most affected victims are those living within a disaster-hit region, they are also the ones who become the most reliable source of support and recovery. In case of natural disasters, various public organizations such as a civil defense force, emergency units and medical teams rush to the scene. Also, international organizations devise relief programmes. Yet, they are not able to immediately assist the victims of disasters. Disasters, in most cases, are a sudden and unpredictable blow to a community. Unlike many other pressing social problems, the first few minutes after a disastrous event is the most critical moment for saving lives and curbing destruction. This is why people, especially within disaster-hit regions, are and should be ready and trained for unpredictable yet inevitable catastrophes.

It is not enough for government offices and international organizations around the world to secure capital and create a "relief fund" and "rehabilitation programmes". Activities relating to prevention and awareness to neighborhood people are critical. In fact, the case of Bangladesh proves this point. In Bangladesh's case, \$1 billion USD was collected for research, relief and post-disaster rehabilitation programmes, yet, less than 1% of such funding was spent for the purpose of developing awareness and enhancing the capacity of the people.

For a resource-poor and disaster vulnerable country like Bangladesh, post disaster relief programmes are not enough. Instead, programmes like Public Awareness Programmes (PAP) are some of the more effective, practical and economical means of disaster mitigation programmes. This is especially true in a close-knit society of Bangladesh known for its strong sense of community cooperation and ties. Bangladeshi society has been known to extend assistance beyond its kinship. In this type of a culture, people are the most reliable wealth that can effectively deploy disaster mitigation and prevention initiatives. Their inherent drive for cooperation and collaboration is a definite strength in implementing initiatives that require a strong team play. Consequently, it is important for the donor constituencies to focus on prevention and preparedness activities as well as rehabilitation programmes. To do this, they must identify the real needs of a disaster-prone community, prioritize action plans and programmes and evaluate their effectiveness through well-organized study.

1991 Cyclone in Bangladesh

**April 28:** Cyclone Struck



Many people were saved by their neighbors.

**May 16:** Foreign Rescue Team Arrived



Furthermore, what is most important in such process is that all these activities are operated with transparency and through collaboration with the local communities. An adequate and accessible "check and balance" prevents unfulfilled potentials and allows for each party to know how resources are being distributed. People have the right to know how resources are being distributed and used. Most importantly, people must benefit from these resources allocated to help victims of disasters and misfortune. Often, relief initiatives yield too little a result for the amount of resources, energy, and funding that have been promised and attained. To prevent misunderstanding and misuse of the funds, local residents should know and be a part of the decision-making process from the very beginning.

### 1991 Cyclone in Bangladesh

#### Donation and AIDS

**\$1 Billion USD**

for research  
relief  
rehabilitation

**< 1%**

for capacity buildings



### Public Awareness Programme In Bangladesh



## Inequality in Development = Disaster Vulnerability



(photo: A. Kaloumaira)

Communities that need a better established disaster management system often are within developing nations that also suffer from problems associated with poverty. Naturally without resources, they experience a more difficult time recovering from disasters when they occur. Also, especially in nature-rich yet economically deprived nations, like Fiji in the South Pacific, they are more susceptible to disasters related with economic development. These communities are often pressured by the market-driven global economy to "ride its global waves" in hopes for achieving higher Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Hence their ecosystem is often traded for pecuniary profit, which often have serious long-terms negative effects.

For example de-forestation, causes erosion in many areas of the developing countries, making various communities susceptible to landslides during floods.

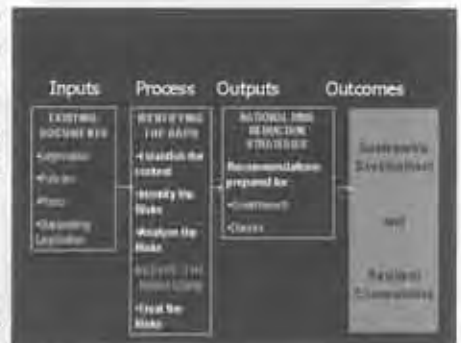
Over the past year in 2002, countries such as Fiji, Tonga, Guam, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia have experienced severe landslides and heavy flooding. While these disastrous effects cannot be attributed all to the inequitable mode of economic development per se, insensitive development, in conjunction with the lack of resources and capacity, have certainly increased the risk of disasters.

In essence, development and consequence management are not mutually exclusive and are often in direct association with each other. Consequently, in addition to preparedness and rehabilitation programme, fair and environmentally sound development is another road to effective disaster management system. In other words, sustainable quality of life achieves effective means of disaster management and vice versa. In Fiji, an organization such as South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) has been working towards advancing the quality of life through the implementation of disaster preparedness and related advocacy programmes. For example, Fiji has been deploying CHARM programme. CHARM stands for "comprehensive Hazard and Risk Management", and its focus is to guide Fiji and South Pacific Islands development through the involvement of community-specific disaster management programmes and policies.

As urbanization sweeps throughout the world at a rapid pace, consequences of disasters are much more intense due to the intense built-nature of the environment. Therefore, an integrated method of development, guided by a programme like CHARM, becomes important element of disaster management.



(photo: A. Kaloumaira)



CHARM: Comprehensive Hazard and Risk Management Too in Pacific Islands ( A. Kaloumaira)



### 3. DISASTER AND EDUCATION



Disasters and education deeply correlate with each other at two distinct levels. On one hand, education is an important means by which people, both young and old, can be educated about the disaster risk they live with on a daily basis. Education informs the public on disasters and about the methods of survival. The notion of using education to inform people about disasters goes along the line of an ancient Chinese philosophy that quotes, *"If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime."* In this way, education is a process that leads people to independence, sustainability and ultimately survival. The earlier people are taught about the causes and effects of disasters, the better they will learn. On the other hand, places of education such as local schools have more practical implications for disaster management purposes. In many places around the world, schools play an important role as an emergency shelter. The connotation of school buildings is often "security". School buildings often act as a kind of haven during disasters. When disasters hit, people gather at their local schools for support and wait for the effects of disasters to wane. In effect, educational facilities like schools need to be seriously considered an important element in disaster mitigation, hence, given special attention in their structures and interiors when constructed. Also, investing in the retrofitting of school buildings and their interiors would be another solution towards existing schools. Education, when comprehensively considered, is a significant instrument of disaster mitigation and management.

## Strong & Safe School Buildings-A Key Element



Robust school buildings as a "safe" space for community members are a critical component in disaster mitigation. Schools need to be equipped and structurally safe, both inside and outside. Schools should have emergency provisions of basic needs such as food, blankets, medicine, and furniture so that people can find as much comfort during time of tribulation when disasters occur. Also, modern architecture is governed by a set of specific structural standards, but often neglect to emphasize the notion of "retrofitted" architecture. Therefore, especially in disaster-prone areas, local governments and the local Board of Education should be aware of such necessity and implement the retrofitting of schools accordingly.

The Hyogo-Gujarat Friendship Fund made such school retrofitting possible in Gujarat, India. In response to the Gujarat earthquake that recently shook and destroyed many villages, Hyogo Prefecture created a fund that would allow for Gujarat schools to be reconstructed using the retrofitting construction method. This partnership facilitated Gujarat schools to not only be reconstructed but also, to be improved through the use of appropriate construction method. The intent of this effort was to encourage retrofitting of all school buildings so that Gujarat communities could truly achieve an earthquake safer society.

In 2002 a similar partnership emerged between Bal Vikas School in Nepal and Maiko High School in Japan. Facilitated by NSET-Nepal and UNCRD, the two schools established cultural and educational exchange partnership building upon on their common goal to create an "earthquake" safer community. The initiative is comprised of several activities ranging from student exchange programs to fund raising events. Last year, UNCRD arranged a site visit for the principal of Bal Vikas School to visit Maiko High School. The main objective of such visit was to exchange disaster management ideas and preparedness activities deployed in both schools. By associating and learning from each other, they not only augmented their understanding of the schools' disaster management programs but also confirmed of the importance of disaster preparedness programs. Also, Maiko High School students raised funds for the school retrofitting program in Bal Vikas. Subsequently, the student representative from Maiko School visited Bal Vikas School and was able to see the funds in action. Also, on that trip the student exchanged the "culture box" that was established as a token of partnership and cooperation between the schools. In this way, a partnership in strength continues to encourage each other in increasing awareness towards disasters.



## Non-Structural Mitigation



Furthermore, schools' interior robustness plays a critical role in protecting the lives of those who gather in schools for protection. Especially during instances of earthquakes, furniture can act as a lethal weapon to those who are in a building, and schools are no exception to this rule. Strategic interior designing and planning within schools should be incorporated as a major part of non-structural mitigation programme. They should seek further advice from various organizations to update their information and for any recent innovation that would be more effective in protecting community members during emergencies. Local governments should also invest capital to replace unsafe furniture to safe furniture and any interior adjustments required improve school safety.



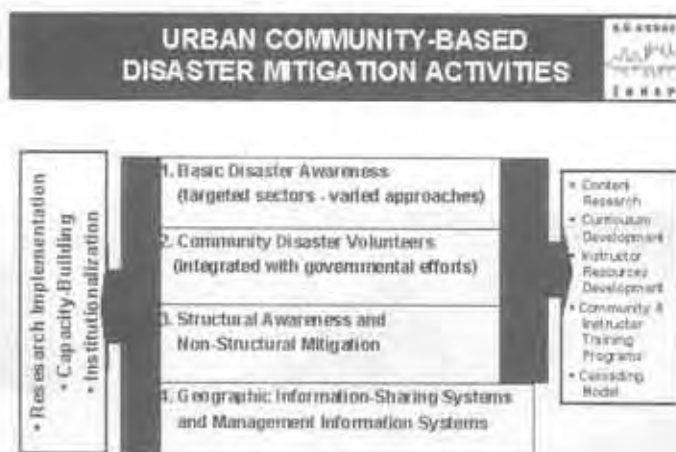
## Educational Programmes



(M. Petal)

As previously mentioned schools as institutions are not only a "safe" space but also a "learning" space for students who spend substantial amount of time in schools. For example, in Turkey the Istanbul Community Impact Project was launched by Bosphorus University to increase community disaster awareness, local preparedness, and first response skills through education of various strategies. They incorporate the deliberation of in-class courses. Clear and concise educational materials are offered to students in schools so that they are simple enough for children of all ages to understanding. They are also encouraged to share the course materials to family members who may not be familiar with the notion of disaster preparedness or are not able to seek out information due to illiteracy. This is especially true in rural areas of developing nations.

Therefore, school children can communicate with their elders regarding emergency programmes as a method of reverse oral tradition. In fact, many of these materials are filled with images so that even people who are illiterate can understand by looking at the pictures. They are also interactive so that students can learn through active participation. Activities such as fire drills and similar disaster simulations play an important role for students in training. Disaster training programmes are not as effective if they are approached only as a theoretical disaster management study. Training in action capacitates the mind to immediately signalize physical reactions resulting in a better response towards emergencies when they occur. Furthermore, these materials were created through affordable means since the programme did have a large enough funding to provide and distribute expensive materials. Nonetheless, the Impact Project team were able to establish materials that are "eye-catching" for the audience.



"Community" Records in Turkey is funded mainly by an UN-Habitat approval and UNICEF/UNEP, R. Petal & J. J. J. J.

Holistic and Comprehensive Approach (M. Petal)

Moreover, in the Istanbul Community Impact Project, disaster management instructors experience extensive preparation process before they practice as qualified instructors. Trainees are given disaster management materials on topics ranging from disaster awareness, earthquake hazards, preparedness activities, and post disaster activities. The overarching goal of such trainers training programme is to not only hone their technical skills on disaster management but also their perception and behaviors on disaster risk. Changing their perception and behaviors to reflect disaster awareness in truer sense of the word is critical in implementing effective community-based mitigation education efforts. Without their will to act as role models in disaster awareness programmes, training programmes and instructions would mean less than effective. This transformation of trainers add to the preparedness of disaster "before" it occurs.

## 4. POST DISASTER INITIATIVES



There is no guarantee in disaster management, in terms of when a disaster will hit, how large it may be, where it may occur, in what form will it arrive. The margin of error for the occurrence of a disaster is much wider than for many other problems in this world because of its unpredictability. Nevertheless, in case of a disaster, significant number of people can lose their lives and properties in a matter of short period of time. Its effects are significant and often long lasting. In this respect, the odds of providing for disasters may appear as a waste of investment on the surface. Yet, history shows that disasters of varying degrees have occurred in almost all the regions throughout the world at one point or another. Hence, it is a matter of when not if. Unfortunately, these elusive characteristics of disasters make it difficult for governments to distinguish the need of consequence management strategies, allocate ample funding, and implement wide range of emergency activities. Especially in countries with sparse resources, governments do not have the financial capacity to create and implement programmes for something that have yet to have occurred.

Similarly emergency planning has not yet been considered a standard feature of development activities. Thus, many development-related programmes endorsed by large international organizations lack disaster prevention proposals within a developmental programme. Most disaster management-related development programmes present themselves in the form of relief programmes for redevelopment purpose-not for development. This process, ranging from medical enforcement to infrastructure rehabilitation, is usually tremendously costly and time-consuming. Ironically, the kinds of activities and organizations involved to establish a well-grounded prevention programme are relatively less costly. These programmes aimed towards community preparedness for disasters usually capitalize on the inherent strength of local communities and often come in the form of social programmes that operate through volunteer work. Furthermore, if one compares the amount of capital required to rehabilitate a completely unprepared community as opposed to a prepared community, the difference is clearly significant. For example, reconstructing a non-retrofitted house



that had been completely destroyed by an earthquake would take far more capital, labor, time and resources than to retrofit a house and prepare for non-structural mitigation by using small and low-cost instruments. The compound effects of such preparatory activities would become significant savings for any place in the long run. In the final analysis, the return of investment made for disaster preparedness is significantly higher than the input for its effort.

Therefore, organizations, both large and small, national or international, public and private, must recognize the importance of disaster prevention as an important element of a developmental process. Development and disaster management are not mutually exclusive. A sustainable development programme takes into account the importance of acting on the preventative measures of disaster management. Part of securing a sound future development means taking preventative measures to protect the citizens from disasters. And an effective strategy of such preventative measures must come through the will, desire, commitment and understanding of the people at the community level. The essence of disaster preparedness is fundamentally a matter of mental awareness towards disasters and small actions adopted by an individual. Disaster constituents around the world must see to it that the collective measures of these two elements are established, nurtured and expanded in the form of various social, educational, cultural and political programmes. Hence, the notion of grass-roots approach plays a major role in effective means of addressing disasters and emergencies.



(photo K.Yasui)

## What Kobe Experienced and Learned



(photo: K. Yasui)

In its aftermath of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, Kobe reconfirmed the importance of people in the course of responding to disasters. While thousands of people lost their lives, thousands survived and learned an important lesson: neighborhood-ties. Both the citizens and the government of Kobe saw and felt the great power, resilience, and the effectiveness of grass-roots activities that were deployed by the citizens after the earthquake. After the catastrophe, neighborhood residents rushed to aid those in need before fire, police or medical units reached the place of the scene and offer their assistance. In addition, individual residents were able to reach out to places where fire engines and police cars could not. Ultimately, the neighborhood network and support acted as the most effective source of assistance at a micro level.

Subsequently, Kobe confirmed the importance of community network and the emphasis on their grass-roots activities. The local residents actively initiated workshops and meetings at a local level concerning disaster management, acting upon and reflecting the needs and concerns of neighborhoods. They educated themselves and empowered community members to prepare themselves for an unpredictable disaster that could destroy their community as it has done in the recent past. Through these activities and communication, people learned to connect with people and form a support network that would not only save lives but also encourage their recovery after a tragedy. People became more aware of the risk they live with and acted on it through cooperative methods. Awareness is what motivates people to take preventative measures, to be prepared. By being aware, people and the local government planned redevelopment initiatives that were more sensitive towards earthquakes. Consequently, preparedness is the groundwork required to promote, establish and maintain a sustainable society that can shield itself from all types of perils, including natural disasters.

Disaster preparedness is in some ways more important than management since readiness can prevent loss of lives to some extent. While disaster management programmes can rehabilitate buildings and infrastructures, nothing can retract death when it is done. Lives lost remain lost even after a city is redeveloped through hard work by the people and the government.

Hence, consistent preparedness activities promoted, implemented and shared through citizen participation are the key to preventing tragic and unnecessary life and property-loss during disasters. The network created by the





local residents in preparing for disasters has a significant impact on the outcome during disastrous events. Learning from the past, many communities in Kobe established such network along with the cooperation of non-profit organizations.

In Kobe, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) such as Kobe Safety Net began its work with the community members to deepening the understanding of risk management. For example, the organization worked with the neighborhood children to perform plays showing the steps to take when disasters hit. Adults and children participated in games relating to disaster management activities. Local police, fire and medical teams gave demonstrations at these fiestas and offered opportunity for residents to see the equipment they use. In addition Kobe Safety Net has sponsored seasonal concerts based on the theme of "community and cooperation" inviting both young children and senior citizens from a neighborhood. All these cultural activities are effective grounding mechanism for people to live with disasters.

The focal point of all these activities and efforts is the people. The tragedy in Kobe is a constant reminder that people hold the key to the mitigation of life and property-loss during disasters. People's collective effort can move mountains given the opportunity, the appropriate tools, education and trust. Therefore, community participation in various forms plays a significant role in saving lives and cities for that matter.



Cooperation  
with  
Communities



(photo K. Yasui)

## Strengthening of Social Fabric: Through Community Institutions



Class for young students (photo: D.Chang)

The role of a social facility such as a local "YMCA" (Young Men's Christian Association) is significant in providing activities that strengthens the nucleus of a community: families. "YMCA"-like facilities aim to build strong individuals both physically and mentally, to implant altruistic values in people, and to promote health at all levels. They form "inclusionary" activities rather than promote "exclusionary" benefits. Because of such observance, YMCA's (normally called the "Ys") have become a successful symbol of community centre in more than 100 countries around the world and serving more than 30 million people. Ys have become a center for multiple activities ranging from sports, counseling, day-care to education.

In effect family-oriented activities have become a source of assistance and strength during disastrous events as well. For this reason many counselors and directors of Ys have established programmes that relate directly to emergency preparedness. They have developed adult programmes to offer basic training as well as a community college that emphasizes anticipation of young people in learning about cooperation and neighborhood participation.

In 1999, Taiwan experienced a serious earthquake (921 Earthquake) that damaged much of its cities. In response to such experience, the YMCA in Taiwan has established a Community Citizens College for youth to enroll in a programme that is comprised of classes where students learn about disasters and the environment through art, recreation activities and creative science classes. Furthermore, they have reached out to public schools in hopes for establishing a joint partnership in effort to capture a wider range of audience. In some successful cases, schools and the counselors have established summer sports camps that incorporate some aspects of emergency training activities. Others have adopted after-school programmes for both parents and students where they can learn about self-protecting mechanism through family-oriented recreational activities.

Consequently, families and individuals who live in designated areas of Ys have a source of strength and practical help when events beyond their capacity occur. The presence of these facilities have the potential to surmount more obstacles at a lower cost than what temporary relief programmes with significant funding source can because of their long-term commitment that affects the core of peoples' lives on a daily basis.



Parent Effective Training  
(photo: D. Chang)



YMCA Taichung, Community Citizens College  
(photo: D. Chang)

## The Role of Culture



Also, culture plays a significant role in cultivating a practice of coping mechanism during disasters from generation to generation. While culture presents itself in all forms, the general trend and power lies in its propensity to continue for years on end. Habits, when incorporated as a part of practical culture, can influence the way people act and live for a long time.

In a similar way, retrofitted housing construction method is slowly but surely becoming a culture within communities in Gujarat, India. In its recent aftermath of the Gujarat earthquake, Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA) deployed a community-based rehabilitation mechanism. In the course of such rehabilitation process, the GSDMA encouraged the residents to reconstruct their houses

based on their needs, aesthetic preference and livelihood. They felt that enforcing preferences and intervening into local communities' construction cultures and tradition would further hinder them from practicing safer-housing construction method. Their role as public office was to teach homeowners about the practical and technical method of reinforcing their home through the retrofitting process.

Ultimately, the local people learned how to construct their homes using this retrofitting mechanism. Each and every homeowner constructed their homes by attending the education programme and equipment offered by the GSDMA. Therefore, they are not only competent and informed about earthquakes, but also know how to physically protect their household. Today in Kuchchh, the GSDMA learned that even a young child and a senior citizen alike know how to speak the language of a "retrofitted" housing, because it has become a part of their livelihood.



The long-term effect of such programme is that future generations would know how to protect their villages from earthquakes. Their knowledge would save them from not only losing lives but also their livelihood in the Gujarat region. This knowledge-based culture has become a form of self-help that would sustain families and their lifestyle. Rather than repeating the vicious cycle of destruction-and-reconstruction, Gujarat residents can advance their standard of living over time and build on their progress. The importance of such programme lies in its longevity and effectiveness when catastrophes hit. Investing in people's conscience on mitigation measures is tremendously effective.



## Capacity Building



Community participation facilitates people to work with both government and non-government organizations and to develop capabilities required to manage and to live with disaster risks. Capacity building is the process by which people can more effectively participate with the local governments and various organizations to make informed decisions. It also acts as a catalyst for communities to be empowered so that they can obtain the voice required to influence decision-making at a policy-level. The process comes in various sizes and forms, and there is no absolute mechanism for it. Nonetheless, the fundamental core of an effective capacity building measure lies in its outreach to people at a community level, especially to the marginal population.

The Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority's (GSDMA) case is a successful case study exemplifying a comprehensive capacity building mechanism. In response to the rehabilitation needs of villages that have been harshly affected by the recent earthquake, the GSDMA deployed extensive recovery programmes throughout the state. The extent of their programmes reached out to more than 20 districts within Gujarat State, which translates to more than 1.1 million houses, and 7633 villages all together. In all of the programmes, the focus of all the rehabilitation process was on people, especially the underprivileged echelon. The residents in the rural villages decided their courses, their methods, their projects and the location of where they took place. The role of the GSDMA was to guide such procedure and progress, but never to control or speculate the process. Consequently, people appreciated their effort and took genuine interest in participating. Because all these capacity building programmes were inspired by the residents, themselves, felt the responsibility as the direct stakeholders to their success.



Also, the government of Shizuoka Prefecture in Japan practices a similar commitment towards its residents by promoting grass-roots capacity building measures. Shizuoka Prefecture had always been known to have a high risk of earthquakes that could surpass the magnitude of the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake. In light of this, the government recently acted upon such risk by forming a community-based disaster management committee and encouraging various grass-roots activities to enhance people's awareness towards such risk. The government recognized and acknowledged the importance of working with the neighborhoods: that government alone has a limited impact and effect on disaster preparedness. Much of the capacity building for disaster preparedness is, therefore, performed by the community based disaster management committee. As an official committee with elected members, it acts as the mediator between the residents and the government. The committee members work with the residents in the neighborhoods, enhancing resident's awareness of the possibility of an earthquake. They educate people through community forums, panel discussions and flyers to maintain public awareness towards the risk. They also deploy various training programmes providing the residents with the opportunity to practice the emergency routine through

simulations. As the mediator, they also inform residents about any legislative change or development that occurs regarding disaster management. In return, they voice residents' concerns and interests to the government.

The local government also actively empowers and educates the local residents through various means and methodologies. For example, experts on disasters from the government office visit schools to teach children about earthquakes and demonstrate what people can do on a daily basis to mitigate such effects. Also, they have deployed a project called, "Tokai Zero", a programme for retrofitting houses in the prefecture. Engineers sent by the government offices evaluate vulnerability of a family's house. In return this evaluation programme offers a family an opportunity to not only learn about the components of a vulnerable home but also receive a grant to retrofit it if needed.



## Preparedness



Government and other non-profit organizations' roles are to encourage, enhance and act upon the communities' capacity and prepare a clear framework for community cooperation, because citizen's capacity acts as a tremendous strength during disasters. Also it can add to the social network within a community during its recovery stages where victims need both physical and emotional support. Ultimately, such capacity building and citizen participation activities are the most effective means of preparing communities for disasters.



## 5. KEY PHRASES RAISED AT THE WORKSHOP



At this year's International Workshop, experts from around the world shared their views, opinions and first-hand experiences in the field of disaster management. Their stories expressed a wide spectrum of problems and solutions of various nations around the world. Through these dialogues and presentations, both the experts and the audience at large saw and heard very specific testimonies of the trials and tribulations people faced in the course of finding ways to establish a more disaster-safer society. Furthermore, these presentations not only portrayed success stories but also further challenges that communities continue to face in the process of advancing their development goals. Below are few quotes extracted from the presentations that reveal the pastiche of the first day of this year's Workshop.

### 1. On transparency:

"Transparency of activities and dissemination of the knowledge and information encourage people's participation in activities."-- Sanny Jegillos (IDRM)

### 2. On enhancing community capacities:

"Efforts in empowering the individuals as well as the community who are prone toward earthquake risk is an integral part of disaster mitigation efforts"-- Harkunti Rahayu (ITB)

### 3. On identifying real needs:

"CBDM programs should have clear goals and objectives and they should not focus on one particular hazard (flood focused)."-- Sanny Jegillos (IDRM)

### 4. On proactive preparedness programs:

"The disasters occur when they are least expected. We need to promote disaster response awareness education in order to reduce the effects of the disaster."  
-- David Chang (Taichung YMCA)

**5. On streamlining political process for an effective community outreach:**

"Most of the aid received after disasters is spent on structural reconstruction projects and for covering the costs of highly paid international and national consultants...[I]t is observed painfully that not even 1% of the donations received is spent for the development of awareness and enhancement of capacity of the people..." – Saidur Rahman. (BDPC)

**6. On enhancing public and private partnership:**

"The [disaster management] experience of Guagua, however, broadens the meaning of community to include a very wide spectrum of representation from various sector of the population including...the market vendors and local business organizations." – Jerome Casals (IDRM)

**7. On incorporating disaster management as a part of economic development:**

"Disaster management programs and activities are successful when they are part of the socio-economic development efforts of the community." – Sanny Jeglilos (IDRM)

**8. On capitalizing on inherent potentials:**

"[W]e are now convinced that for Disaster Management to be effective—building on the inherent strengths of the community results in the best form of disaster preparedness." – Manu Gupta (SEEDS)

**9. On institutionalizing disaster management:**

"An important component of this project was to institutionalize the earthquake risk management processes started in this project." – Amod Dixit (NSET-Nepal)

**10. On enhancing awareness of disasters:**

"It is now imperative that we extend these principles [of disaster management] to organizational preparedness, and to continue to emphasize "before" a disaster as the best time to act." – Marla Petal (Bosphorous University)

## PROFILES OF PRESENTERS



**Kenji Okazaki**  
Coordinator  
UNCRD Hyogo Office

### Welcome Address

Mr. Okazaki joined UNCRD in February 2002 as the coordinator of the UNCRD Hyogo Office. He comes with extensive experience serving in both national government and international organizations ranging from MLIT to United Nations UN/ESCAP. He was the manager of the RADIUS project which was carried out by the IDNDR Secretariat from 1996 to 1999. He received the 1999 Japanese Earthquake Disaster Prevention Association Award for the management of the RADIUS project.

"Many people have been saved by their neighbors during disasters. In order for us to increase our level of preparedness, it is important to raise awareness of people and communities. We shall share our experience and think for the future disaster management during this workshop."



**Tatsuo Yada**  
Mayor  
Kobe City

### Introductory Remarks

Mr. Yada became the mayor of Kobe City in the fall of 2001. Born and raised in Kobe, he has previously served as a deputy mayor of Kobe before winning his position as the mayor. Prior to his mayoralty in Kobe, he has worked for various public offices in Japan. Having experienced the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, he supports various disaster mitigation projects that put emphasis on cooperation amongst citizens and effective measures of response towards disasters.

"3 lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake are 'importance of preparedness', 'community bond' and 'dissemination of our experience'. People's participation is essential to achieve sustainable disaster management."





**Yasuo Itagaki**  
 President  
 The Yomiuri Shimbun, Osaka

Opening Remarks

Mr. Itagaki became the president of the Yomiuri Shimbun, Osaka. He oversees Japan's one of the leading newspaper companies that have been informing the Japanese public for over 50 years. As the overseer of one of the leading newspaper publishing firm he strives to inform people about the devastating effects of the Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake, and hopes that people would be encouraged and informed to prepare against this type of natural disasters.

"Disaster Management is borderless. I hope that participants from variety of countries share their experience and discuss for future directions to achieve earthquake safer world. Our responsibility, as news media, is to disseminate our experience to the world."



**Rajib Shaw**  
 Researcher  
 UNCRD Hyogo Office

Chair / Presentor  
 Topic 1: Disaster and Community  
 Issues and Challenges

Mr. Shaw has been working for UNCRD as a researcher since 1999. He comes with extensive knowledge and experience in the field of disaster management. Having led many UNCRD projects in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Cambodia, he continues to apply his expertise on disaster management and community development. Mr. Shaw holds a master's Degree in Education from Yokohama National University and a Doctor's degree in Science from Osaka City University.

"'Kizuna' (community bond) 'Self-help', 'cooperation', 'education' are essential in disaster management."



**Amod Dixit**  
 General Secretary  
 NSET-Nepal

Presentor  
 Topic 1: Disaster and Community  
 Nepal's Experience

Mr. Dixit, one of the founders of NSET-Nepal (National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal), currently serves as the chief of the organization. Mr. Dixit holds over 10 years of experience working on earthquake mitigation projects including Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Project (KVERMP) and School Earthquake Safety Program (SESP). He, a renowned geologist, has been closely studying the affects of earthquakes and landslides mainly in the Himalayans such as India and Nepal.

"We promote the 'culture' of disaster preparedness and mitigation."



### Harkunti Rahayu

Head  
Research Group on Disaster Mitigation  
Institut Teknologi Bandung

Presenter  
Topic 1: Disaster and Community  
Indonesia's Experience

Dr. Rahayu is a professor of civil engineering and a head of research group on disaster mitigation at Institute Technology of Bandung (ITB) in Indonesia. After the Earthquake of 2000, she has been taking a leading role in the rehabilitation process and implementing various projects in the most affected areas. She is also an information and education campaign specialist promoting a post-earthquake school program as a method of disaster prevention in Indonesia.

"CBDM initiatives should include all elements of [a] community. Education is one way to institutionalize earthquake disaster initiatives."



### Sajedul Hasan

Project Manager, PC-FPP  
CARE Bangladesh

Presenter  
Topic 1: Disaster and Community  
Bangladesh's Experience

Mr. Hassan, an experienced manager of disaster management for CARE-Bangladesh, is undertaking a 5-year CARE project that promotes community development and empowerment in Bangladesh communities. He has been involved in various grass-roots activities that focus on the recovery process after natural disasters for over ten years. He has also worked as an active member of CARE USA Foundation of Disaster Response (FDR) training team and facilitated its training sessions.

"'Self-help' of households and communities is a key for sustainable disaster management."



### Uy Sam Ath

Director of Disaster Management Department  
Cambodian Red Cross

Presenter  
Topic 1: Disaster and Community  
Cambodia's Experience

Dr. Sam Ath became the director of Disaster Management for Cambodian Red Cross in 1994. Since then, he has been deeply involved in various recovery projects of Cambodia, especially after a recent flood, which was one of the worst in 40 years. These projects promote not only material support to families affected by the flood but also a framework of support network for pre-disaster mitigation. He also holds a Doctor's degree in Medicine.

"One important thing is for every stakeholder to know his/her role and responsibility and cooperate with each other."



**Manu Guput**  
 Joint Director  
 SEEDS

Presenter  
 Topic 1: Disaster and Community  
 India's Experience

Mr. Gupta established SEEDS in 1993, leading the organization to work with in and out of India in promoting disaster-mitigation strategies. He has worked extensively in the area of community based disaster management in the most vulnerable areas of the country, among which he has been focusing on Gujarat and Orissa for the past few years. His methodology of participatory planning reaches out to empower those who are the most weak and vulnerable.

"New face of disaster management: from a "command and control" approach to a "people friendly, people empowering" one."



**Jerome Casals**  
 Consultant  
 IDRM

Presenter  
 Topic 1: Disaster and Community  
 Philippines' Experience

Mr. Casals is currently working for the Philippine-based International Institute for Disaster Risk Management (IDRM) which was formerly known as Asia Pacific Disaster Management Centre. IDRM aims to promote international standards and best practices in disaster and risks management. He holds a Master's degree in Development Management (MDM) from the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) and has been involved in social development for more than a decade.

"Institutionalization of community/private sector participation leads more sustainable disaster management programs."



**Patrick Safran**  
 Policy Officer  
 Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Chair  
 Topic 2: Disaster and People

Dr. Safran, originally from France, is leading the emergency assistance Technical Working Group with ADB. He is an expert in the field of planning and policy making in various parts of the developing countries and has applied his knowledge for disaster management. Previous to his assignment at ADB, he coordinate and manage projects of CIRAD (Centre de Cooperation International en Recherche Agronomique pour le Development).

"Given the strong link between poverty and emergency crisis, achieving the ADB overarching goal of poverty reduction depends heavily on preventing, mitigating, and addressing the risk, vulnerability, and impact of such emergency."



### **Makoto, Matsumoto**

Journalist

Presenter

Topic 1: Disaster and People  
Kobe's Experience

Mr. Matsumoto has an extensive career as a journalist covering stories concerning regional economics and the important role citizens play in such process. Many of his editorials cover these aspects by portraying the lives of Hyogo citizens and depicting the activities of grass-roots organizations in the Hyogo prefecture. Through his career as a journalist, the chair of a town planning board, and a lecturer, he continues to seek solutions of development by promoting and empowering the local citizens.

"Participation" and "cooperation" were keys to success for reconstruction of Kobe.



### **Saidur Rahman**

Director  
BDPC

Presenter

Topic 2: Disaster and People  
Bangladesh's Experience

Mr. Rahman is the founder and the director of BDPC. He has conducted massive disaster relief and rehabilitation operations for over last twenty years. His previous professional experience includes working for the Red Cross and Oxfam where he held different positions e.g. first Director of Cyclone Preparedness Programme and Deputy Secretary General of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Deputy Country Representative and Country Representative for Oxfam in Somalia and Bangladesh.

"Most people have been saved by their neighbors during disasters. We need to appreciate power of people."



### **Atu Kaloumaira**

Risk Reduction Program Manager  
SOPAC

Presenter

Topic 2: Disaster and People  
Pacific Islands' Experience

Mr. Kaloumaira currently works for the SOPAC as the Risk Reduction Programme Manager. He brings a wealth of information regarding community development and capacity building measures of the Pacific Islands where have been hit hard by the natural disasters. Previously, he was the Mitigation Advisor in the UNDHA 'South Pacific Disaster Reduction Project' based in Suva. He has over 20 years of experience working for Fiji government on draining, dredging and irrigation projects.

"Community decision making power enhanced in the use of resources to improve current livelihood and keep secure for future development as well."



**Selji Suwa**

Head  
Dept. of Environment and Disaster  
Management Maiko High School

Chair  
Topic 3: Disaster and Education

Mr. Suwa began his teaching career at Maiko High School in 1994. Since then, he has been actively involved in the disaster management classes offered at the high school. In 2002, Maiko High School is the nation's first and the only high school with Department of Environment and Disaster Management. Currently, Mr. Suwa chairs this newly established unique department and promotes comprehensive studies for environment and disaster management.

"One of the ways in which we can perform better disaster management is by becoming a worldly being who can communicate with people around the world, by knowing many languages and being open to different cultures."



**Junko Nakashima**

Student  
Maiko High School

Presenter  
Topic 2: Disaster and Education  
Self-experience

Ms. Nakashima is a high school student who took interest in disaster mitigation and community development process while studying in school. She belongs to an after-school activity in Maiko High School. Having directly experienced the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, Ms. Nakashima is very active with her after-school extra curricular activity and hopes to pursue her career in the field of disaster mitigation and management in the near future.

"I felt that the enhancement of knowledge towards earthquakes, through these school retrofitting projects, enhances disaster management for these regions."



**Anand Arya**

Advisor  
GSDMA (Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority)

Presenter  
Topic 2: Disaster and Education  
Hyogo-Gujarat Friendship Fund

Prof. Arya has extensive field and research experience pertaining to disaster management and mitigation program. Prior to his involvement with the Friendship Fund, he has spent many years with the national government of India, Roorkee University, UNESCO and other UN organizations. He is also a professor emeritus at Roorkee University. In 2002, Professor Arya has been awarded with Government of India, Padma Shree Award. In 1997, he was awarded the United Nations Sasakawa Award.

"They [Gujarat people] had not forgotten the ravages of their quake, nor the generous overseas helps received afterwards."



### **Maria Petal**

Istanbul Community Impact Project Manager  
Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute  
Bosphorus University

Presenter

Topic 1: Disaster and Education  
Education and Participation

Ms. Petal is a Project Director for the Istanbul Community Impact Project based at Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute at Bosphorus University in Istanbul. She is also the Director of Community Mitigation Programs for Geo Hazards International, currently responsible for the Central Asia Earthquake Initiative in Almaty, Tashkent, and Dushanbe. She is a doctoral candidate in Urban Planning at UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research.

"It is now imperative that we extend these principles to organizational preparedness, and to continue to emphasize "before" a disaster as the best time to act."



### **Sanny Jegillos**

Director- International Operation  
IDRM

Chair

Panel Discussion

Mr. Jegillos is involved with IDRM as one of the leading personnel in disaster management. He is an expert on facilitating a participatory process in the development of a national program strategy for disaster management. Also his expertise lies in policy planning, strategic management, institutionalization of a national disaster management organization and education and training. He has world-wide experience in nations including Yemen, Lao PDR, Bangladesh, and Cambodia.

"The next disaster will happen if the last one is forgotten, maybe [the key] word[s] now after this presentation is, [that] if we apply well what we have learnt in the last disaster, the next disaster will not happen."



### **Kotaro Yasui**

Representative  
Kobe Safety Net

Panelist

Panel Discussion

Mr. Yasui is an executive board member of Kobe Safety Net, which is a network of private companies, government institutions, and research institutions in Kobe to improve safety of Kobe. He has been deeply involved in the redevelopment process of Minjo district of Kobe City. As a part of the redevelopment scheme, Mr. Yasui promotes redevelopment at a grass-roots level where community members themselves are empowered and capacitated to influencing the outcome of such development.

"From the lessons [learnt] from the earthquake, in the case of emergency, what is needed [of] you is not money, not articles, or assets, but human capacity and strength."



**Tetsuo Inoue**

Director  
Kobe Citizen Disaster Research Institute

Panelist  
Panel Discussion

Mr. Inoue is the founder and the director of Kobe Citizen Disaster Research Institute. He has promoted programs within Kobe in hopes for preventing the damaging effects of the past Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake that took place in Kobe 8 years ago. He has over 20 years of experience working with local committees and grass-roots organizations that are concerned groups of community development. Mr. Inoue has leveraged the local government authority and autonomy in the community development process.

"The important fact here is that, Kobe's Industries have taken immediate action after the earthquake [of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake]."



**Miyuri Kato**

Vice-chairperson  
Shizuoka Community Based Disaster Management Committee

Panelist  
Panel Discussion

Ms. Kato has been working as a vice-chairperson for the Shizuoka CBDM Committee, which promotes risk management at a grass-roots level with the people of the prefecture. Its activities include publishing information magazines, promoting earthquake-resistant houses, and educational campaigns on disaster management. Her involvement with the local citizens has been extensive. She is a traditional Japanese calligraphy instructor as well as a free-lance journalist.

"The community is [comprised] of people including men, women, the elderly, children. So together with everyone's power, we would like to enhance the community."



**David Chang**

Advisor  
The YMCA's of Taiwan

Panelist  
Panel Discussion

Mr. Chang is actively pursuing YMCA programs as an advisor to make its facilities more useful and accessible to the community at-large during the time of emergency like the "921 Earthquake" in Taiwan. As a public institution adopting the motto "We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities", Mr. Chang is working to make this facility to continuously supply community service in response to local needs. He is also an instructor at Taichung YMCA Community Citizens College.

"Community decision making power should be enhanced in the use of resources to improve current livelihood and keep secured for future development as well."



**V. Thiruppugazh**

Joint Director

GSDMA (Gurajat State Disaster Managment Authority)

Panelist

Panel Discussion

Mr. Thiruppugazh was the second person to join GSDMA, which was established immediately after the Gujarat Earthquake 2001. He is currently responsible for managing activities related to long-term capacity building, community participation, empowerment, education, and infrastructure development. He has been cooperating with the international community to not only redevelop and prepare the region for the next possible disaster but also promote awareness to communities worldwide.

"Experts, administrators, non-government organizations--they can help [the people] in making an informed solution, but the solution should be owned by [the people], it should come from them."





**REHABILITATION**  
**of**  
**AFGHANISTAN**







## BRIEF HISTORY

Afghanistan has remained considerably low profile until the terrorist attacked the United States on September 11, 2001. In the ensuing commotion, the world turned its attention to it almost overnight. For several months after this incident, world media focused on this country and aired programmes in anticipation of introducing the condition of Afghanistan as it currently exists. Yet, understanding the current situation of a nation requires one to know its history, and Afghanistan is no exception. In an attempt to form its context, the following major historical events of Afghanistan leading up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century are as follows:

The contemporary history of Afghanistan is still often depicted by internal strife, wars and social conflicts within its society. Two decades of civil, political, economic and environmental unrest have tried and withered much of the nation's resources. Starting with the late 1970's Communist Revolution, the politics mirroring the former Soviet Union once again shook the nation.

The Communist government executed central planning, hence, dramatically changing the mode of life and value system from its previous past. Unfortunately, even the central planning politics could not manage the entirety of such a large nation comprised of diverse demographics especially with evidence of political factions and fragmentation. While the new government attempted to perform national welfare reform and unification of the country once and for all, there was a limit to how much a centralized government could oversee such a large nation. As a result, only a portion of Afghan regions flourished. Development mostly occurred in major cities like Kabul in terms of commercial activities, education and infrastructure development. Many rural areas remained undeveloped or underdeveloped.

In the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Taliban regime entered into the mainstream Afghan politics and society. Again, the Taliban government attempted, as did the Communist government, to unify the country: this time through religion. The Taliban practices fundamental Islam, a more conservative teaching of Islam. Applying this severe form of Islam as the absolute law that governs all aspects of Afghan life, uneven development and social unrest continued. Political clashes between the ruling Taliban and the Northern Alliance continued and deeply affected the lives of many Afghans. Out of the many Afghans that were deeply affected by the Taliban rule, women were affected most. Women could not function as productive members of the mainstream society.



Such condition continued until the incident of New York's World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. In the ensuing commotion, the United States sent concentrated military force into the country and executed intensive military actions in Kabul and various rural regions of Afghanistan. Subsequently, the Taliban politics was expunged and a new form of political office superceded the country under the guidance of the United Nations. The newly formed Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan (ITGA) is currently at the forefront of reconstructing the nation.

In addition to the political commotion for the past few decades, Afghanistan has experienced a series of natural disasters. In 1998 an earthquake shook in Rostaq in Takhar Province, killing more than 4,500 people and injuring 8,000. This event destroyed more than 200 villages along with 20,000 animals. Also in 2002 a large earthquake shook the grounds in Nahrin of Baghlan province. Approximately 1,200 people lost their lives and 1,448 people were injured.<sup>2</sup> More than 152 villages were destroyed. Furthermore, Afghanistan has suffered severe drought for the past six (6) years in thirteen (13) different provinces, which have forced many villages into thirst and starvation.<sup>3</sup>

From one event to another, Afghanistan has been experiencing wide array of challenges. Consequently, the current ITGA faces a barren nation. The issues before them are overwhelming. From urban planning and housing, coordination of international assistance, women's issues, to economic revitalization the transitional government's responsibility is tremendous. In response to such great need, the role of UNCRD, amongst many other international organizations, is to share resources, knowledge, best practices in the field of disaster management to help Afghanistan in its course of rehabilitation and development through cooperation and collaboration.



<sup>1</sup> Shaw, Rajih. Report, "Training and Capacity Building for Safer Construction Practices - Towards Sustainable Rehabilitation Program in Afghanistan", UNCRD :1.

<sup>2</sup> Seddiq, Taajuddin. Speech, International Workshop 2003, Kobe, Japan, 1 February 2003.

	652 A	Arabs introduce Islam
Invasion of Afghanistan by Genghis Khan Destruction of irrigation systems by Genghis Khan, which turned fertile soil into permanent deserts.	1219 -1221	
	1708	Mir Wais (forerunner of Afghan independence) makes Kandahar independent of Safavid Persia that had ruled it since 1622.
	1736	
Nadir Shah (head of Persia) occupies southwest Afghanistan, and southeast Persia.	1738	Nadir Shah takes Kandahar.
	1747	Rule of Timur Shah Capital of Afghanistan transferred from Kandahar to Kabul because of tribal opposition.
Nadir Shah is assassinated, and the Afghans rise once again. Afghans, under the leadership of Ahmad Shah Abdali retake Kandahar, and establish modern Afghanistan.	1773 -1793	
	1836	
Dost Mohammad Khan is proclaimed as Amir al-mu' minin (commander of the faithful). He was well on the road toward reunifying the whole of Afghanistan when the British, in collaboration with an ex-king (Shah Shuja), invade Afghanistan.	1839-1842	First Anglo-Afghan War
	1843	British take Baluchistan, and Afghanistan becomes completely landlocked.
After the annihilation of British troops, Afghanistan once again becomes independent, and the exiled Amir, Dost Mohammad Khan comes back and occupies the royal throne (1843-1863).	1859	
	1873	Start of second Anglo-Afghan War The British invade and the Afghans quickly put up a strong resistance.
Russia established a fixed boundary between Afghanistan and it's new territories. Russia promises to respect Afghanistan's territorial integrity.	1878	
	1893	
The Durand line fixes borders of Afghanistan with British India, splitting Afghan tribal areas, leaving half of these Afghans in what is now Pakistan.	1921	Third Anglo-Afghan war. Once again, the British are defeated, and Afghanistan gains full control of her foreign affairs Amanullah Khan initiates a series of ambitious efforts at social and political modernization.

Afghanistan's Parliament denounces the Durand Treaty and refuses to recognize the Durand line as a legal boundary between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

1947

Britain withdraws from India. Pakistan is carved out of Indian and Afghan lands.

Pashtuns in Pashtunistan (Occupied Afghan Land) proclaim an independent Pashtunistan, but their proclamation goes unacknowledged by the world community.

1949

The U.S. rejects Afghanistan's request to buy military equipment to modernize the army.

1953

Prince Mohammad Daoud becomes Prime Minister.

1954

Kruschev and Bulgaria agree to help Afghanistan. Close ties between Afghanistan and USSR.

1955

Daoud turns to the Soviet Union (Russia) for military aid.

1956

The Pashtunistan (occupied Afghan land) issue flares up.

1973

Daoud Khan presents a new constitution. Women's rights confirmed. Daoud starts to oust suspected opponents from his government.

July 17th: Zahir Shah is on vacation in Europe, when his government is overthrown in a military coup headed by Daoud Khan and PDPA (Afghan Communist Party).

1975 - 1977

Daoud Khan abolishes the monarchy, declares himself President—Republic of Afghanistan is established.

1978

Soviet Union (Russia) invade in December.

Bloody Communist coup: Daoud is killed, Taraki is named President, Taraki signs treaty of friendship with the Soviet Union.

1979

June—Afghan guerrilla (Mujahiddeen) movement is born.

1992

The Taliban militia is born, and advance rapidly against the Rabbani government.

April 15—The Mujahideen take Kabul and liberate Afghanistan. Professor Burhannudin Rabbani is elected President.

1994

## SPECIAL MESSAGES



### Welcome Address

**Kazunobu Onogawa (Director, UNCRD)**



United Nations Centre for Regional Development was established in Nagoya, Japan, in 1971 under the sponsorship of the Japanese government. Japan, as a post-war symbol of growth, acted as a reference for growth for this office in its course of strategizing economic development in other parts of developing countries.

Subsequent to the establishment of the Nagoya office, two more offices in Africa and Latin America were founded in hopes for assisting sustainable growth within the two continents. Finally in 1999, the Hyogo Office, specializing in disaster management, was realized in response to the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake that devastated the city of Kobe. Its role is to commit itself to the reconstruction process of the city as well as participate in creating sustainable and disaster resilient communities worldwide.

Throughout the years the Hyogo office has deployed numerous disaster management programmes in numerous countries, one of which is Afghanistan. As was the case in Kobe, several incidents of earthquakes in Afghanistan have had devastating effects to its citizens in its recent years. In response to such tragedies, the Hyogo Office has worked with communities by deploying several grass-roots programmes for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

While administrative changes and reforms at the political level are crucial for the purposes of national order and development, neither goals can be achieved without public participation at the community level. Consequently, the critical element in the course of national development is community. This is not only the case with Afghanistan but also true with many other developing countries around the world. The anticipated discussions at this year's International Workshop are certain to raise meaningful and practical solutions by encouraging the climate of community-based activities in the course of mitigating pressing problems of the world.

## Introductory Remarks

Toshizo Ido (Governor, Hyogo Prefecture)



The Hyogo Prefecture welcomes the Annual International Workshop in Hyogo Prefecture. Eight years ago, the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake abruptly hit the City of Kobe in Hyogo Prefecture. This sudden event had a devastating effect on the prefecture as it has become a rapidly aging society. Subsequent to this incident, the Hyogo Prefecture has taken several initiatives emphasizing the importance of community participation, and support network.

At the prefectural level, the office has been actively pursuing disaster management initiatives ranging from "Hanshin-Awaji Disaster Reconstruction Planning, a 3-year Program" to a program attributing to the "United Nations World Conference in Natural Disaster Reduction" in 2005. Its intent is to participate in various programmes, both local and regional as well as domestic and international, to promote disaster awareness and cooperation amongst Hyogo residents..

Through these programmes and initiatives, the prefecture's ultimate goal is to disseminate the experiences and lessons learned through the Earthquake in 1995. In light of such event, the office has recently established "Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution" as well as "Hito-Mirai Kan". The establishment of these two institutions after the earthquake are symbolic in themselves as edifices celebrating humility and life itself. Furthermore, this past October "Disaster Reduction Alliance" was established through a partnership between the United Nations and International organizations active in the field of disaster management and humanitarian issues. Through institutionalization of disaster management and community-level cooperation, the prefectural office acts upon further disaster mitigation strategies to achieve sustainable society.



## Keynote Speaker

Haji Qazi Taajuddeen Seddiq (President, ODP)



The modern day Afghanistan suffered 23 yeas of various conflicts beginning with the Russian invasion to the emergence of a terrorist network. In fact, this country has always been vulnerable for geopolitical reasons. Being the gateway for Asian and Middle Eastern countries, Afghanistan often faced internal strife of political, religious, and social clashes.

Finally after more than two decades of internal turmoil, Afghanistan has begun its first step towards independent politics and comprehensive rehabilitation at the national level. Ten (10) months ago, the *Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan* (ITGA) was formed. Since its inception, many administrative changes have been made from the reorganization of the national army to the political restructuring. The members of the Office of Disaster Preparednes (ODP), who have the opportunity to attend this year's International Workshop, are also seeking new and creative ways of disaster management that they can deploy in Afghanistan to better protect their citizens from harm.

One of the reasons behind the significant effort put into the ODP lies in Afghanistan's vulnerability from natural disasters. Aside from political and social trials and tribulations, Afghanistan has experienced a number of severe disasters. Several earthquakes occurred in 1998 where thousands were killed and injured in Rostaq and Badakshan. Recently, an earthquake in Nahrin destroyed more than 153 villages. Furthermore, years of drought in 13 provinces have led to hunger and destitution.

Consequently, the needs of Afghanistan are enormous and overwhelmingly complex, as issues reside in all aspects of the Afghan lives. Because of these disasters and decades of internal strife, the country is starting from virtually nothing. On the bright side, Afghanistan has the opportunity to start from a clean slate and establish a more stable and open form of government that encourages public participation and empowerment at the grass-roots level.





## Keynote Speaker

Nasir Saberi (Deputy Minister, MUDH)

Workshop : People, Communities, and Disasters



The history of Afghanistan over the past few decades reveal an overwhelming picture of internal strife and natural disasters. From political unrest, poverty and problems of refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDP), Afghanistan has experienced tremendous turmoil. Finally after decades of political uncertainty, a new form of interim government superceded the Taliban regime. It was established to engage itself in restoring peace and economic revival once again to the country.

As a part of the national reform, the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MUDH) currently faces many challenges and issues that need to be reviewed and revised. Its work at the national and regional level is high in demand as a ministerial office that manages housing, property and urbanization issues, all of which are pressing concerns of the current Afghan society. At the forefront of MUDH's work lies the problems of housing for the Afghan refugees and the "Internally Displaced People" (IDP) as well as the reconstruction of towns and villages that had been destroyed and neglected throughout the years.

In response to these issues, the MUDH has deployed various programmes that were recommended at the international conference held in Kabul. For example, land surveys and housing reconstruction programmes have been decided and initiated. Also, the redevelopment efforts in six (6) major cities of Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kandahar, Herat, and Kunduz are underway. In addition, the MUDH has planned a new-town development in Paymarnar to accommodate the dire housing needs of the Afghan people. This new town will accommodate approximately 800,000 inhabitants. Furthermore, the MUDH has taken up urban revitalization projects focusing on historic town centers and cities that contain culturally significant buildings. These areas are comprised of various quarters containing craftsmen and traditional musicians that preserve the rich history and culture of Afghan society.

Several administrative changes are also occurring within the Ministry itself. It has begun to form a joint venture with private companies and allow for decentralization to take place in the housing industries. In response to such political decision, several private firms, both domestic and international, have approached the Ministry for a possible housing development in the downtown areas of major Afghan cities. Furthermore, the Ministry anticipates to further develop a more comprehensive guide to enhance a better relationship with other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

The issues and problems Afghanistan currently faces are overwhelming in numbers and in their complexity. From housing, infrastructure to cultural and social problems, they all require serious consideration amongst the Afghan ministries and the donor counterparts. In the course of Afghanistan's reconstruction process major cooperation and effort amongst all parties are required for effective and sustainable growth of the nation.

## 1. HOUSING, BUILDING AND URBAN PLANNING



The event of September 11 in 2001 caused a sudden political change in Afghanistan that threw the country in a state of confusion. The transition from the Taliban regime to the ITGA occurred without much preparation or consideration. ITGA does not have the resources at this moment as a transitional government yet, its responsibilities and expectations are many. First and foremost, it faces the tremendous responsibility of unifying and rehabilitating a nation that has historically experienced strife through wars and economic instability. In addition, the government is experiencing a new layer of issues and problems following this past year's sudden change.



## Current Challenges



Largely divided, challenges facing Afghanistan can be categorized into two kinds:

1. Those that have existed from the past and
2. Those that are emerging alongside the recent political change that is taking place.

The former is comprised mainly of problems relating to settlement, poverty and infrastructure. Many villages and towns within various Afghan regions have been physically destroyed. Houses and public structures have been eradicated by wars that have continued for decades, including many in major cities such as Kabul, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif, Herat, Kunduz and Bamyan. Adding to wars, natural disasters further demolished a significant number of structures in cities and towns. Many of these buildings were historically significant structures that represented the rich culture

and history of Afghanistan. Subsequently, many historically significant and aesthetically sophisticated buildings were left to perish as the government could not save them due to lack of resources. The long history of instability in government further aggravated improvement in infrastructure development. Wars destroyed infrastructure that had been once established and emptied the national revenues. Consequently, the government could not afford to recover what small existing infrastructure that was available. Either way, a comprehensive provision of such basic need never occurred. The never-ending cycle of war and natural disasters significantly slowed down the pace of development in Afghanistan, making it one of the least developed countries in the world.

Furthermore, Afghanistan has been severely affected by drought. As a country, whose irrigation system had been destroyed by its past conqueror and had never been fully recovered, drought signifies thirst and starvation. In some regions, drought has continued for the past six (6) years. The cumulative effects of these events are tremendous. The latter is comprised mainly of problems relating to refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), and insubstantial government form. Since 1980, Afghanistan is considered to have the world's largest refugee population.<sup>1</sup> Statistics shows that five (5) million people were displaced internally and five (5) million refugees



fled the country.<sup>2</sup> As soon as the political climate in Afghanistan changed with the displacement of the Taliban government, more than 1.8 million refugees rushed back to the country in the ensuing commotion. Many were from Pakistan and Iran.



<sup>1</sup> UNCHR Media Office, Geneva, background, <http://www.unhcr.ch/works/mide/afghan.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Rahman, Lutf, "International Workshop 2003," Kobe, Japan.

In 2002, another wave of 300,000 refugees returned to Afghanistan for homecoming. In addition amidst such movement, some 724,000 IDP's mobilized themselves seeking for resettlement. This significant demographic shift in a relatively short period of time significantly aggravated the housing problem that the government that had already been experiencing for some time.

Furthermore, this shift not only affected the housing issue but also the geo-cultural and economic issues. As more returnees returned to Afghanistan, they headed towards more established, urbanized areas with resources and better chances for opportunities. Those, whose hinterland is located in the rural areas, could not return for cultural, social and economic reasons. Chances were slim for them to find stable jobs and businesses in small, deserted hometowns and villages. Furthermore, close-knit Afghan villages and towns under a strict tribal system would have a difficult time accepting and merging with the returnees. Hence they inundated major Afghan cities; and development in these areas were ground to a halt. Resources in the cities disappeared as the demand could not meet the supply.



(photo: L. Rahman)



While the transitional government attempts to meet the needs of Afghan people and returnees, it lacks the basic management capacity. A clear framework of government function has not been set. Also, the government lacks the capable human resources to handle the overwhelming number of issues crippling this country. Many educated Afghans left the country during the past several decades leaving the "well" of human resources dry. There is no guarantee that many intellectuals who fled the country would return despite the change in the political scene. When the United Nations set up ITAG, it appointed several well-educated, willing, and worldly Afghans from around the world. However, the real problem lies in the gap between the returnee officers and the local Afghan public officials. Many of these employees were born and raised in Afghanistan through decades of internal strife. Hence, the work ethic and their visions often differ tremendously between those Afghans who were educated overseas and the native Afghan civil servants, making the work environment tough and progress slow and difficult.

## Major Issues in Afghanistan



In the last year, numerous international conferences took place around the world to establish realistic goals and recommendations in the course of assisting Afghanistan towards independence and security. Similar conferences took place within the country as various ministries joined forces to develop ways to deliver the country from economic despair and social crisis.

A major conference took place in 2002 in Kabul that involved Kabul Municipality, Kabul University, Association of Afghan Engineers in the United States, UN-Habitat and the Association of Japanese Engineers. These organizations and various other constituents gathered to discuss, analyze, and develop strategic plans for the rehabilitation of

Afghanistan with special emphasis on housing and urban planning. Subsequently, prioritization of need and action plans based on that need were established.

The participants at this conference reached a general consensus to focus on four major topics surrounding land, infrastructure, housing and planning. Land management in Afghanistan had been largely neglected for a very long time. Public works office and building inspectors neither kept a good record of land ownership nor accurately identified public capital assets for development purpose. Consequently, the public works office needed to establish a more efficient and effective ways of keeping land record and identify problematic situations and confusions that required special attention. For example, in many cases private homes and unauthorized structures stood on public land and vice versa. In these instances a decision was made to give the building owners the option of leasing or buying the public property.



Also, the working group decided that the government, namely the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MUDH), should assist homeowners who lost their home to reconstruct or rehabilitate it. The role of MUDH was to not only offer financial incentives and assistance to families in the process of reconstructing their home, but also, to offer technical support and advice. The technical support capacitated families to strengthen their house, hence, protect themselves against earthquakes without disrupting their traditional architecture. This is important and relevant to especially families who live in regions that are more prone to earthquakes and major natural disasters. Housings in most parts of Afghanistan are made of brick, wood, stone, mud, cement, sand, and limestones.<sup>3</sup> While steel architecture does exist, it is not the vernacular form of Afghan architecture and is mainly located in urbanized areas. Because the majority



<sup>3</sup> Waghela, Kiran. *Abhiyan*.





of Afghan houses are mud-based, their structure is a critical element in constructing a disaster-resilient house. The understanding of a safer construction method of an Afghan houses by families make a significant difference in their vulnerability towards earthquakes.

Furthermore, the working group recommended a policy to relieve the housing pressure by designating public land for the purpose of developing public housings to accommodate low-income families, returnees and IDP's who returned to cities without resources. In some cases, the group suggested MUDH to dispose public properties for the purpose of low-income families building their own home. As a result, progressive housing development was planned by MUDH in six major Afghan cities of Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar-I-Sharif, Kandahar, Herat and Kunduz. The first steps to such development involved surveying the land, performing feasibility test, and establishing development schemes. In addition to these housing developments housings the MUDH proposed a "New Town" development in Paymunar. Paymunar is located in the northeastern part of Kabul near the Kabul Airport. This is another development scheme planned to relieve the housing crisis many Afghan cities are facing. Fortunately, it has the capacity of accommodating over 800,000 people and a high probability of adequate supply of underground water that is essential, yet is often lacking, in the Afghan society.

Along with intense housing development scheme, the MUDH decided that such plan would mean little if infrastructure did not develop in parallel with housing. Hence a decision was made to allocate major financial assistance towards infrastructure development and rehabilitation. Water supply and sewer connections were planned for housing developments. Also, roads and water drainage system were planned for a more controlled urbanization in cities.

To better control urbanization in various Afghan cities, MUDH decided to seriously consider and deploy a more comprehensive measure of city and town planning mechanism. As a part of such effort, the government initiated the revitalization of the older Kabul towns whose development had been long over due.

Many of these small locales consisted of historically valuable buildings that depicted the sophisticated culture and art of Afghanistan. In many of these areas old gardens, shrines and mosques lay dormant and neglected in many of these areas. A special planning study was initiated and performed to capitalize such cultural wealth and to revitalize the old town centers.

Historically, these towns had thrived as a kind of "local market", equivalent to the historically known "Medina" in old Arabian cities, where traditional musicians, artisans, and coppersmiths displayed their talent. Under careful planning studies, these markets could resurrect and add to the lives of current Afghan population as they did in the past.

Furthermore, as changes at all levels swept through the country, Afghan market economy is slowly changing to embrace private market and foreign investments. For the first time, MUDH approved and encouraged development through sectors other than that of the national government's. Currently, a private developer has been given the permission to develop a 3 to 4 story high apartment complex in the northern part of Kabul. Given its success, the company intends to continue residential development throughout the region. Also, an Australian company recently showed interest in performing a joint venture with the private Afghan developers to establish residential compounds in Kabul and other emerging provinces.



## Housing Reconstruction





## Problems and Challenges in Achieving These Goals



While significant goals and potentials have been discussed and determined, there are still many challenges for the government to overcome in achieving those goals. One of the biggest hurdles in realizing their plans is funding. Afghan government is working with virtually no national revenue. As a nation that experienced a long history of severe domestic strife, its budget is extremely limited. Currently, the ITGA operates through outside funding from various organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and many other international counterparts that have agreed to assist Afghanistan. Even then, the government has more projects and programmes that it needs to deploy than is capable of sponsoring with the current foreign funding.

Furthermore, the financial pressure increases as the government is responsible for sustaining the projects and programmes once they are implemented. They all operate with a cost whether they are roads, water supply, sewer system, housing, public welfare, education or cultural events. Without the sustainability of these programmes, the country would not continue to develop and/or protect communities against disasters, educate people, and improve their health. Furthermore, a continuous lag in development could eventually lead to a series of social problems and political instability similar in the past.

Also, the current Afghan government does not have an established mechanism for working with the numerous non-profit and Non-Government Organizations (NGO's). The lack of communication, surveillance and order between the government and these organizations have often added to the opportunity cost of development in Afghanistan. Also when problems occur the current government has no way of knowing or assisting the NGOs to rectify the problematic situations. The government sees the need to have an official framework where its office can communicate and account for the activities that are being implemented by these various organizations. A good working partnership between the government and non-profit organizations could lead to a better urban planning process in the long run. Nonetheless, without the human resources or an established policy in regards to NGOs, the government faces difficulty in achieving such cooperation.



## 2. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN AFGHANISTAN DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD



For several years concentrated aid, deployed by various international organizations, has been pouring into Afghan communities. Countless number of social groups from, including but not limited to Japan, Norway, India, and the United States have offered their assistance and guidance to communities in need. Some smaller organizations entered the country through cooperative measures with larger organizations such as the UN, the World Bank and the ADB. Small or large, these international organizations' activities have tremendously impacted the progress of these marginal communities. Unlike many larger organizations and world governments, these non-profit organizations work at the grass-roots level, directly affecting the Afghan lives. They not only offer material assistance, but also their labor and physical support, which is often unattained through large organizations. Without their time, labor and effort, many communities could not have been saved.

These NGOs and various international organizations, both large and small, act as a primary guide for the Afghan people seek to continue with their lives and improve them over time. Eventually, these people need to be able to sustain themselves by acting upon what they learned through these organizations and using the materials they received through assistance. The road to such self-sufficiency required tremendous resources.



## Basic Needs



(photo: H. Imai)

One of the main goals in rehabilitation programmes is to procure safe and sustainable lifestyle for those in destitution. A non-government organization, like Peace Winds Japan, entered Afghanistan even before the political shift to offer basic needs such as shelters, food, medical treatment, sanitation, water and job training. Especially the Afghan refugees and IDP's are in need of such assistance as they most often travel back to the country with nothing in their hands. Peace Winds Japan built camps and temporary shelters in rural areas where Afghan refugees are likely to collect as the location for the repatriation process.

In fact, in many cases, accommodating the refugees starts out by literally creating a "virtual" community in areas they gather. On a flat, undeveloped land, Peace Winds Japan put up tents, dig wells, establish medical center, and provide a community kitchen to distribute food. There are no gardens or cattle for food source. Most of the time, food and other basic materials are delivered through trucks from the bordering Pakistan, India and Turkmenistan. The Peace Winds Japan staff continue this cycle of "fetch and deliver" until the refugees have attained a minimum level of security before taking the next step in encouraging them to pursue an independent lifestyle. At some of these camps, the refugees are given opportunities to learn basic reading and writing and methods of husbandry. Temporary schools are built and community classes are offered at these camps.

Issues and problems that IDP's face are also similar to what the refugee returnees face. In most cases when the IDP's finally return to their hinterland, they return to a place of dilapidated houses, buildings and facilities that is telling of the neglect experienced during their absence. Often, there is lack of adequate infrastructure, water and sewer system, and housing. In these communities, organizations like Peace Winds Japan and Shelter For Life (SFL) have been offering not only the basic needs of food, water and medicine but also fairly well-grounded education on housing construction and methods of husbandry. Such educational process is an especially pressing issue for communities that previously fled due to natural disasters; and the number of IDP's formed as



a result of major natural disasters is not marginal. Over the last five (5) years, three (3) major earthquakes destroyed numerous communities and displaced the residents outside the region. Furthermore, years of drought parched many Afghan regions into barren land.

As a result, people returning to their home town need instruction and knowledge on how to persevere and sustain on the land that could not withstand previous disasters. They require an understanding and methodology that would allow them to build their livelihood on such land. In this respect, another role of international organizations is to share, promote and instill safe and sound planning mechanism that would capacitate the residents to advance their livelihood. For example, Shelter For Life responds to these communities' needs by specializing in housing construction by working with local communities to construct earthquake-resilient homes and other major disasters. Since many of these communities are poor, introduction of modern technology and architecture is not the most practical answer. Most of the time, they work with the local residents to retrofit homes using traditional materials of mud, stone and wood and simple construction methods. Through structural solution, they work towards stabilization of community both literally and socially.



### Wide-Variety of International Assistant



## Livelihood

In some areas, international organizations support traditional activities to revive the source of livelihood once practiced by Afghans. Supporting livelihood differs somewhat from the notion of offering emergency aid. The latter indicates a definitive time limit, a temporary assistance of basic needs for the survival of people. The former suggests a more long term and holistic solution—a commitment to working with people on a project over time for long-term effects. Both are significantly important aspects of “international assistance”. They simply differ in methodology and the audience they serve. For refugees and IDP’s, offering intense aid for a period of time is critical because of the imminent needs they have. On the other hand, some communities need long-term strategic planning and consultancy about their livelihood that would act as a catalyst for life-supporting continuum.

For example, in three (3) major Afghan regions, one of which is the Shumali Plains, viticulture had been their traditional agriculture. In fact, grapes grown in these regions have been historically known for their quality and their extensive variations. Some say that there are more than fifty (50) types of grapes grown in these areas. While some are exported to Russia to make wine, most are dried as sultanas and raisins. The viticulture in these areas is different from many others around the world.

Unfortunately, in the Shumali Plains vineyards have been destroyed through internal strife. Consequently, the viticulture has halted. Hence grape-related activities from cultivation of grapes to their marketing have ceased to be in this area, which affected the very livelihood of people dependent on the crop.





An international group, led by UNCRD, NGOs Kobe and CODE, observed this problem but saw an opportunity to revive this once prosperous activity. Through extensive discussions and networking, the group decided to rehabilitate the vineyards of Shumali Plain using a cooperative system. Historically the notion of a cooperative (often referred to as the co-op) started during the Industrial Revolution in England in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>1</sup> A co-op basically adheres to the notion of putting people before corporation. Normally, it is owned by members, respects and favors local farmers and growers, supports sustainable agriculture, fair trade and practices equality amongst the members. The organizational structure hold four unique features: 1. Open membership to everyone 2. Democratic decision-making process 3. Equity-run system 4. Non-partisan organization.<sup>2</sup>

The group studied various forms of cooperatives and the culture of market economy in this region. As a result, they learned that a key to realizing a successful co-op market in this area was highly dependent upon the ownership of land by farmers. In other words, farmers who owned vineyards better maintained and sustained their livelihood than employed farmers who rented them. Hence, the group decided that they would pursue a "agricultural-marketing co-op".<sup>3</sup> The focus of this mechanism lies on two processes: cultivating grapes and marketing grapes through a cooperative method. Farmers would form their own cooperative group and decide their production method, as well as mode of supplies to achieve an economy of scale. At the marketing stage, these co-op members would participate the marketing process where by farmers will pack, process and sell their produce through negotiated agreement.<sup>4</sup>

Since a cycle of viticulture takes on average about five (5) years to complete, the group plans to secure funds for its up-front cost from various sources.<sup>5</sup> The fund is planned for purchasing necessary instruments, to train, to market, and to operate the business. The funds will be raised in various forms, and not all of them are in the form of grants. Some are a short-term and long-term, low-interest loan. Some are trade credits offered by a supplier. The group's goal is to eventually stabilize the production of grapes so that the farmers have enough means to continue and expand their production.



<sup>1</sup><http://www.wisc.edu/uscw/cic/def-hist/history/uk-move.html>

<sup>2</sup> Gupta, Manu. Report. For UNCRD. Afghanistan-Report on Sustainable Livelihood Recovery. January, 2003

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *ibid.*



## Further Issues of NGO



From viticulture to setting up tents for the Afghan refugees, the roles of international NGO's are many and significantly important. Their relentless effort and dauntless activities often are the glue of what is keeping the Afghan society from derailing and crumbling into piece. At this sensitive time, their assistance is a must. While their work is deeply appreciated by many Afghan communities, there remain issues that need attention for their rendered aid to continue with its effectiveness.

First, as previously mentioned, Afghan government does not currently have an official system that acts as the pipeline between the government and NGO's. Consequently, there is no concrete system to establish, evaluate and expand their activities. Effective means of performance measurement is not possible without such mechanism. There is no way of knowing what projects are being deployed where and how effectively. If such system existed, the possibilities of deploying a much more effective assistance would expand. It would avoid instances of "double takes" where organizations repeat same activities over a number of times in the same places making these activities overkill.

Also, in maintaining their strength and effectiveness, NGO's must constantly provide ailing communities with strength and leadership. They must always ask the right questions, accurately identify the needs, and efficiently implement action plans. Focus is an important component in their work. Furthermore, strong leadership means empowering people with nothing, including but not limited to properties and social stability, delivering their livelihood from nothing to something, and training people to independence. Ultimately, their leadership should act as the source of empowerment where people to regain their livelihood and find opportunities through their own effort and actions.



### 3. WOMEN'S ISSUES



Subsequent to the political shift the new ITGA offices and international communities and organizations rushed to concentrate on women who have suffered social and political strife for decades. As a result, there are a few women ministers in the Afghan cabinet, deputy ministers within various ministries, presidents, directors, doctors, engineers and professors at all levels. They are working within the political loop to reconstruct the nation through cooperation and collaboration. Of all the activities they are involved with, many professional women have been active in education reform and revival.

However, statistics shows that an overwhelming percentage of Afghan women are still illiterate. While there are a few who are given that social liberty and professional opportunities, most women still live in the dark ages. Many women are widows with young dependents with no means of economic independence or support network. Furthermore, most women still have not recovered from the effects of constraint they experienced over a long period of time. The suppression have both physically, mentally and emotionally paralyzed women's capability to play an active role in society.

First and foremost, the majority of women are illiterate. Only 36% of the nation's population are literate, of which only 26% of the Afghan women are literate.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, infant mortality rate is 257 out of every 1000 birth within 5 years after birth.<sup>2</sup> Some 16,000 mothers die in childbirth each year. Statistics continues to reveal that the maternal mortality rate is the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst in the world. For every 1,000 births, 17 mothers die.<sup>3</sup> These logistics briefly depict the kind of livelihood most women lead. Most of the women that fall under these categories live in rural areas that are out of bounds with international assistance and central government management.

<sup>1</sup> UNESCO, "World Culture Report 2000", table 26, pg. 391, [http://www.unesco.org/culture/worldreport/html\\_eng/stat2/table26.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/culture/worldreport/html_eng/stat2/table26.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF, "State of the World's Children 2001", pg. 82, <http://www.unicef.org/sowc01/pdf/fullsowc/pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Office of the UN Humanitarian Co-Ordinator for Afghanistan, "Afghanistan Appeal 2001", [http://www.pcpafg.org/appeal/appeal2000/documents/Provision\\_of\\_Basic\\_Social\\_Services.shtml](http://www.pcpafg.org/appeal/appeal2000/documents/Provision_of_Basic_Social_Services.shtml)

Furthermore, most things are lacking for women, from political rights, extensive medical care, welfare to basic shelter. Decades of conflicts left many women widowed without any support network despite the important role they take on as the only breadwinner of a household. Especially during disasters, widows have the burden of protecting, supporting and reconstructing their communities. However, such mechanism has not been founded and the culture of "women-centered" activities is lacking. Therefore, numerous communities are extremely vulnerable to disasters and emergencies as they are inundated with helpless widows and children who have not historically been accepted to take on an active role within a society.

Nonetheless, Afghan women are no different by their inherent physical capacity and intelligence from the rest of the women around the world. They play the role of a mother, a daughter and a wife. Since they spend much of their time at home, they inevitably become the first respondents in their neighborhood during disasters. In other words they, as the constant within a household, can act as the grounding force in communities assisting neighbors during catastrophes and a powerful resource in the subsequent rehabilitation process. Hence, women should and must actively participate in disaster preparedness and mitigation process. The ITGA or any future permanent government must realize and acknowledge such need and potential. To prepare, protect, and mitigate the effects of disasters in communities, women must be educated, informed, empowered, encouraged and assisted.

Perhaps one of the most effective and practical ways in which women can gain self-esteem, independence and capacity is through economic stability. Women can resurrect and enhance their traditional role as weavers and craftsmen. As a part of the Silk Road region, Afghan carpets are a well-known commodity worldwide. Women have played a major role in this process as with many other women weavers in the Asian continent. Hence, the key is to start with what women already know and have. These activities will act as the catalyst for women to adopt an income-generating activity for their independence and security. As a result women could escape poverty, educate themselves and contribute to the Afghan society at large.



## 4. ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION



(photo: H. Imai)

In the past year, tremendous amount of international aid inundated Afghanistan. The event of September 11 became a turning point for the international community as major political change swept across the country as American military action in Afghanistan led to the displacing of the Taliban regime to the current transitional government, ITGA. Almost immediately after that war, organizations from around the world reached out to Afghanistan and offered their assistance. The cumulative donation of funds and grants have easily surpassed the billions digit in U.S. dollars. Hundreds of international organizations, NGO's and non-partisan interest groups offered their assistance in the form of funds and labor as well. Numerous UN organizations rushed into the country to extend their assistance and cooperation. In many cases any given programme offered by various countries came in the amount of millions of dollars. At the Tokyo meeting of 2001 pledges around the world were collected for the purpose of reconstructing and rehabilitating Afghanistan. The following is a snapshot of pledges made by nations around the world<sup>1</sup>: **China**- \$151 million USD, **EC**- \$864 million USD, **Germany** - \$321 million USD, **India** - \$100 million USD, **Iran** - \$60 million USD, **Japan**- \$500 million USD, **Norway**- \$40 million USD, **United States** - \$440 million USD. Other than monetary assistance, extensive number of international organizations, social groups and citizens around the world have extended their labor, goods, and time to work with the Afghan people.

<sup>1</sup> Transitional Government Data on Donor Pledges, and 2002 Commitments and Disbursements <http://aacadad.synisys.com/idmaf/idmMain/documents/AACA-DAD-2002-Pledge-F.xls>

There is no question that the world is concerned about this country. The world showed no hesitation in actively lending their human resources, their capital and their knowledge towards the rehabilitation and the reconstruction of this country in desperate need. Some more than others, but they all joined forces to improve the Afghans' standard of living, safely repatriate refugees and guide the internally displaced persons back to their home.

The question that needs to be asked now, not only by the foreign aid organizations but also, by the native Afghans is, "for how long?" How long will they need assistance? When will Afghanistan find itself self-sufficient? The potential problem of Afghanistan is for the nation to fall into dependency. Dependency is potentially devastating for a country because, the more it receives, the more it needs assistance without further improvement and development. While dependency theory has numerous variations ranging from Cardoso, to Warner's, the underlying concept of dependency theory is that less developed countries do not develop being at the periphery of the world economy where more developed nations sit in the centre.





## Preventing Dependency



(photo: Imai)

In this sense, Afghanistan is at its crossroad of finding ways to circumvent dependency but moving onto independence, furthermore, interdependence. It needs to identify and evaluate its economic development strategies by fully understanding its needs. Such process presents itself as an opportunity for the government to reach out to the citizens for their participation and input in the critical policy-making process. The inclusive planning process involving the citizens plays a significant role in the course of rehabilitating the country in a sustainable and peaceful way. Eventually, the process would nurture effective communication between the government and the people, establishing synergy between the two parties. In effect, the participatory planning leads to long-term economic development. While Afghanistan will not develop over night, the process to the means would significantly affect the final outcome.

Ultimately, the future of Afghanistan is realized only by the Afghans. No matter how much capital, labor, time and effort are poured from the outside, the ultimate will and strength that rebuild the country come from the core of the nation: the citizens. Every citizen counts in this process, and the collective effect is significant. Therefore, citizens must be mobilized, empowered, educated, and capacitated. People must be at the forefront of Afghan rehabilitation. Policies must reflect the public will and fairness to them. Projects should benefit the mass evenly throughout the region. Public welfare must be offered to everyone including women and young girls. Social safety net should be devised for all citizens.

People must be capacitated to able to cooperate at all times and especially in time of need. Without such fundamental capacity, there is little hope. From grass-roots educational programmes to universities, able and educated Afghans hold the key to their success. Each citizen has a role to play in the rehabilitation of his/her nation. They all have a role to play in their community as merchants, public officials, mothers, teachers, storekeepers and construction workers. It is critical that the government of Afghanistan operates towards creating able and capable personnel who would and could work on a par with the international community as well as with local communities.

The key to independence from dependence is the synergy between the government and its people. Such synergy most likely occurs when there is trust between the two. That trust is realized through communication, community-based programmes, respect, and empowerment. As a country that faces many perils of political, religious and natural disaster-related instabilities, a strong connection formed between the people and the central government will eventually deliver the nation out of poverty, vulnerability and dependence all of which are interconnected with each other.





## UNCRD-Supporting Afghanistan Into Interdependency



How do development and disaster management relate? They very well relate to one another. Lack of economic stability and independence stirs poverty in communities and people suffering from inadequate supplies of basic needs. This signifies varying degrees of lack of food, education, housing, and infrastructure and many other fundamental provisions, all of which are critical components of disaster preparation. In other words, sustainable development and disaster management system are not mutually exclusive.

They are two sides of the same coin. The conditions of Afghanistan clearly establish that case. Therefore, a more comprehensive approach in introducing disaster management is to incorporate a feasible, practical, yet a visionary development scheme. Afghanistan is

slowly but surely devising such scheme for the citizens in hopes of providing safe, healthy and sustainable livelihood in true sense of the word. The government acknowledges the need for intense political, social and economic policy-related revisions. As an important part of such revisions, the government aspires to create an official framework for citizen participation in the decision-making process.

That social empowerment process, which arises from communities at the grass-roots level, is being reinforced by the various international organizations that have initiated a working-relationship with the various Afghan cities and villages. UNCRD is one of such constituencies. It has initiated activities at both the grass-roots level and at the national government level to promote a disaster-safer community, hence, has assisted communities in their process of realizing sustainable development. As with many other international organizations, UNCRD's programmes and activities focus on establishing and strengthening the communication between the local communities with the central government. It acts as a facilitator to connect the two entities so that they can cooperate to reconstruct what has been lost and destroyed in the past. The major effort on the part of UNCRD is to establish human nexus by working directly with refugees, IDP's and villagers of various rural areas through education, disaster management and economic development.

In particular, there are three (3) specific projects that are being initiated, sponsored, or led by UNCRD in cooperation with the government office or international organizations. First, the training programme of local Afghan engineers and masons is deployed through a collaborative work with a non-profit organization, Shelter For Life, NGOs Kobe, CODE and Ministry of Urban Development and Housing. UNCRD acts as the lead in the core group comprised of four other partners.



The projects consists of technical and educational assistance for masons and engineers. UNCRD provides guidelines to local masons, engineers and homeowners on how to retrofit and reconstruct a house to withstand earthquakes.<sup>2</sup> The hands-on approach allows citizens to not only see the construction method but also apply it to their housing construction. Also, the core group plans to establish a kind of community forum that could be used to educate local citizens and community leaders regarding earthquakes and disaster management strategies. Through community participation and empowerment at the grass-roots level, the group hopes to achieve effective capacity building process for the Afghans.<sup>3</sup>

Furthermore, in 2002 UNCRD, Shelter For Life, CODE, and NGOs Kobe jointly started to work with the local farmers and families to rebuild their livelihood by promoting activities that capitalize on their inherent economic potentials. The group focuses on the revitalization process of viticulture in the Shumali Plain that was once a major agriculture in Afghanistan. Vineyards were abundant throughout various Afghan regions making grape industry one of the nation's prime crops in the country. Afghan was considered one of the prime producers of grapes, for their abundance and high quality. However, decades of internal strife and wars eventually overwhelmed the industry to a complete halt.<sup>4</sup> Farmers lost their land and their livelihood.

In an effort to revitalize once successful viticulture in Afghanistan, the initiative is comprised of several activities at both micro and macro levels. At a micro level, the group plans to organize several meetings with local community members interested in viticulture. These community groups in the villages called, *Shuras*, provide residents with detailed information in regards to the goals and objectives of the initiative.<sup>5</sup> Also, the group will discuss the possibility of forming a cooperative with the residents. At this stage, farmers have the opportunity to learn about the functions and goals of a cooperative and how it can merit each resident through this measure. Subsequently, the group will study the specifics of the land in the Shumali Plain with the community residents.<sup>6</sup> They will discuss and select, in detail, the types of grapes best suited to be grown in the area. At a macro level, the group will provide comprehensive capacity building training workshops and assist the residents register with the Ministry of Commerce. Subsequently, the group would train the residents on the effective methods of managing vineyards and the specifics of the cooperative market system.<sup>7</sup>



<sup>2</sup> Shaw, Rajib. Report. "Training and Capacity Building for Safer Construction Practices: Towards Sustainable Rehabilitation Program in Afghanistan." UNCRD.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> Gupta, Manu. Report for UNCRD. Afghanistan-Report on Sustainable Livelihood Recovery. January, 2003.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

2003

世界へ向けてⅢ ～?

People, Communities, and Disas



By working with the local Afghan communities, the group's overarching goal is to revitalize not only the rich vineyards that previously supported many of the Afghan livelihood but also to nurture self-sufficiency in their lives. By empowering and capacitating communities to proceed with their life, these local communities will thrive and grow without being heavy-handed. Such economic sustainability and growth realized through a cooperative method would further strengthen the community-ties to a higher level. At a larger scale, a successful collaboration amongst the residents in the Shumali Plain would show the rest of the nation the strength and merits of synergy.

The most recent activity for UNCRD was the capacity training programme for the Afghan government officials from the Office of Disaster Preparedness in 2003. Five (5) representatives from ODP visited Japan at the end of January 2003. Sponsored and assisted by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and International Disaster Reduction Management (IDRM), UNCRD scheduled a week-long training seminar for the representatives of the ODP, which is one of the core offices responsible for rehabilitating Afghanistan. The main objective of this seminar lies in capacitating and training the officials through practical activities comprised of site visits, cultural exchange process, and a workshop. Within the week worth of visit to Kobe, Japan, the delegates attended the International Workshop, visited Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Research Center, Hyogo Prefecture Disaster Management Center, Kobe City Fire Department, UNCRD Hyogo Office, Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution and Asian Disaster Reduction Center.<sup>8</sup> These visits and meetings took place to encourage a knowledge exchange process, bonding programme as well as a reflective mechanism.

The significance behind the delegates' week-long seminar lies in their opportunity to see and experience the examples of successful disaster management strategies throughout the world. At the International Workshop, experts from around the world shared their success stories and the challenges they face. This year the Workshop put special emphasis on community-based disaster management. The testimonies of the participating experts on their success substantiated the importance of such methodology and its effectiveness. Consequently, the delegates acknowledged the importance of such mechanism and pursued knowing more about the specifics through discussions with the experts on an individual basis. In this way, they learned from each other through a practical process based on meaningful conversations. Also, by visiting Kobe and its public offices, they saw and learned about the specific political and management framework used to respond to disasters. As a city that experienced a tremendous loss due to the earthquake, its strategies for recovery process and innovative grass-roots initiatives could act as innovative ideas to the delegates. While the political, economic and cultural climate differ from nation to nation, these opportunities would act as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others who have experienced a similar tragedy.

<sup>8</sup> IDRM, Synopsis, "Applicable Approaches towards Afghanistan's Disaster Risk Management and Development" TA 36180.

In summary development is a great balancing act. Communities and government at the local level and government at the national level need to function through cooperation. The lack of capacity and stability on either end of the spectrum hinders the optimal level of development, leaving a nation vulnerable to various dangers including natural disasters. Hence, they need to establish a smooth working relationship that seek out realistic goals regarding issues of, *inter alia*, economic stability, women's issues, education, decentralization, housing, infrastructure, agriculture, culture, religion, international relations, and disaster management. Achieving that relationship will lead the nation to rehabilitate via sustainable mechanism.

## 6. PROFILES OF PRESENTERS



**Kazunobu Onogawa**

Director  
UNCRD

Welcome Address

Mr. Onogawa has recently become the director of UNCRD. Prior to assuming the directorship, Mr. Onogawa has held various positions at other UN and governmental organizations, some of which are Ministry of Environment, UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), IIASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis) and the likes. At UNCRD, he is driven to focus on the areas of Human Security and Environment.

"While administrative changes and reforms at the political level are crucial for the purposes of national order and development, neither goals can be achieved without public participation at the community level."



**Toshizo Ido**

Governor  
Hyogo Prefectural Government

Introductory Remarks

As the 48<sup>th</sup> governor of Hyogo Prefecture, Mr. Ido has served Hyogo since 2001. Furthermore, prior to his governorship, he was the lieutenant governor of Hyogo Prefecture. Having served in various national ministries from Ministry of Construction to Ministry of Finance, Mr. Ido aims to use this experience in providing safety and security by encouraging citizen participation and cooperation.

"Through institutionalization of disaster management and community-level cooperation, the prefectural office acts upon further disaster mitigation strategies to achieve sustainable society."



**Kenji Okazaki**  
Coordinator  
UNCRD Hyogo Office

Chair, Keynote Address

Mr. Okazaki joined UNCRD in February 2002 as the coordinator of the UNCRD Hyogo Office. He comes with extensive experience serving in both national government and international organizations ranging from MLIT to United Nations UN/ESCAP. He was the manager of the RADIUS project which was carried out by the IDNDR Secretariat from 1996 to 1999. He received the 1999 Japanese Earthquake Disaster Prevention Association Award for the management of the RADIUS project.

"The Hyogo Office considers these three key terms 'independence, cooperation, and education' as the underlying credo in its effort to promote sustainable and effective disaster management at the community level."



**Haji Qazi Taajuddeen Seddiq**  
President  
Office of Disaster Preparedness

Keynote Speaker

Mr. Seddiq directly reports to the president's office on issues of disaster management. His office has been in existence for over 30 years, assisting the country in disaster management and community development. Afghanistan is at its critical moment after experiencing war and natural disasters that overwhelmed the nation within the past two years; and Mr. Seddiq seeks both comprehensive and extensive methods for the recovery of Afghanistan.

"As we plan our new economic and social policies, there will also be new opportunities to include disaster risk reduction as a priority in the planning process right from the start."



**Nasir Saberi**  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Urban Development and Housing

Kenote Speaker

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Housing, Building and Urban Planning, Afghanistan. Mr. Saberi is currently undertaking development issues in one of the most rapidly emerging countries of the world that has experienced both war and natural disasters that cost thousands of Afghanistan lives. Mr. Saberi is determined to establish comprehensive developmental policies that would bring peace, economic and social back to Afghanistan.

"Since December 2001 both the Interim and the Transitional Governments of Afghanistan, with the help of the international community, have been engaged in restoring peace and have been trying to remedy some of the damages."





**Terje Skavdal**  
Regional Disaster Response Advisor  
UN OCHA Kobe

Chair  
Topic 1: Community Rehabilitation

Mr. Skavdal has extensive experience in the field of disaster management and mitigation. Before coming to OCHA, he was the executive director of KRUTas, a Norwegian Council for Mental Health, International Council of Voluntary Agencies, Norwegian Church aid and Norwegian Refugee Council. He is also an active member of UNDAC (United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team), Steering Committee of Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief.

"Much has changed in Afghanistan since I first started my work there, but many more issues still present themselves as we heard the participants' speeches."



**Hiroshi Imai**  
Architect  
Peace Winds Japan

Topic 1: Community Rehabilitation

Mr. Imai has been directing various projects in countries in need such as Afghanistan, Mongolia, Indonesia, East Timor and the likes around the Asian continent. Mr. Imai, trained as an architect, has managed the development and the construction of the refugee camps in Sierra Leone, Africa. In Japan, he has applied his housing experience in providing shelters through joint initiatives with private corporations to provide housing for those in need.

"The real goal of Peace Winds is not to provide a comfortable living situation for the refugees within the camp but to guide them back to their hinterland to be able to continue their life in peace and retain their livelihood."



**Mina Ghalib**  
Engineer  
Ministry of Women's Affairs

Presenter  
Topic 2: Community Rehabilitation  
Role of Women

Ms. Ghalib, trained as an architect, handles various projects relating to reconstruction of Afghanistan. Her office acts as the liaison between women and politics in the country where women's voice was inaudible for a period of several decades. As Afghanistan faces a new era of political, social, economic and architectural reconstruction, her office strives hard to empower women to be involved in the very process of the country.

"The role of women particularly, professional and educated women, are very prominent in different fields of social life of today and much greater than [in] the past."



### **Ian Wilderspin**

Regional Disaster Preparedness Co-ordinator  
IFRC

Chair

Topic 2: Disaster Reduction in Rehabilitation

Mr. Wilderspin began a career in humanitarian aid after his graduation from London University. Mr Wilderspin subsequently work in community based development in Pakistan: as a Programme Management Assistant for Oxfam (GB) and as a Programme Manager in Suda with Save the Children in northern Iraq and as a Disaster Preparedness Delegate for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Vietnam.

"But it strikes me that in particular, the complex urban environment where we are likely to see multihazards in the future, we really need to try and learn how to build a sustainable community under these environments."



### **Rajib Shaw**

Researcher  
UNCRD Hyogo Office

Presenter / Panellist

Topic2: Disaster Reduction in Rehabilitation  
Panel Discussion

Mr. Shaw has been working for UNCRD as a researcher since 1999. He comes with extensive knowledge and experience in the field of disaster management. Having led many UNCRD projects in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Cambodia, he continues to apply his expertise on disaster management and community development. Mr. Shaw holds a master's Degree in Education from Yokohama National University and a Doctor's degree in Science from Osaka City University.

"However, for any effort to be sustainable in [the] long term, it is important to develop a close government-non government partnership."



### **Masakiyo Mural**

Director  
NGOs Kobe

Presenter / Panelist

Topic 2: Disaster Reduction in Rehabilitation  
Panel Discussion

Mr. Mural has been actively involved in the field of disaster mitigation since the occurrence of the Great Hanshi-Awaji Earthquake in 1995. Since then, Mr. Mural has traveled around the world to share his experience of the reconstruction methods of the City of Kobe in hopes of informing other disaster-hit nations and cities about the recovery process that may be useful for them.

"We, the Kobe citizens, have fabricated some philosophies regarding disaster management over the past 8 years. In the same way, people should experience, as well as learn from and empathize with each other and create a culture of disaster management."



**Lutf Rahman**  
Shelter for Life

Presenter / Panellist  
Topic 2: Disaster Reduction in Rehabilitation  
Panel Discussion

Mr. Rahman serves the Kabul office of SFL (Shelter for Life). With its headquarters in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Mr. Rahman has spent much of his time providing shelter to more than 5,000 Afghan citizens who were left homeless due to two consecutive earthquakes that hit Baghlan Province in 2002. Mr. Rahman is also involved in the development process of educational institutions and local job training programs as a comprehensive method of battling against disasters resulting from earthquake.

"Shelter For Life puts primary importance on providing functional living space which incorporated earthquake features and follows Sphere Project guidelines."



**Fainula Rodriguez**  
Deputy Executive Officer  
IDRM

Chair  
Panel Discussion

Ms. Rodriguez has served and continues to serve as senior advisor in disaster risk management to a number of governments in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. She has been working closely at the Ministerial, Deputy Prime Ministerial and Prime Ministerial levels in advocating for and facilitating the development/strengthening of national disaster risk management institutions, policies and plans, national capacity for emergency coordination and introducing best practices in disaster mitigation.

"For sure, if we don't have livelihood, then all the rest doesn't matter, really. Even freedom doesn't matter."



**Yoshiteru Murosaki**  
Professor  
Kobe University

Panelist  
Panel Discussion

Mr. Murosaki represents one of the many active grass-roots organizations in Japan that encourages and promotes international cooperation in disaster-hit areas. Born out of recognition for the importance and need for cooperation after the Great Hanshi-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, Code was established. Now in its 8th year of operation, this NGO has been involved in projects worldwide including but not limited to, Peru, Columbia, Turkey, Venezuela, Cambodia and Afghanistan.

"Comunity has the utmost importance, we should never destroy communities."



### **Masami Kobayashi**

Professor  
Kyoto University

Chair

Topic 3: Afghanistan in Nostalgia

Mr. Kobayashi is a professor of Kyoto University, School Global Environmental Studies. He is a member of Osaka Town Planning Association, Member of Osaka Disaster Mitigation Association. He has published numerous journals and books on town planning and environmental design. Mr Kobayashi has previously served as the coordinator of UNCRD Disaster Management Hyogo Office.

"The notion of community is certainly a key to the rehabilitation of Afghanistan."



### **Noriaki Tsuchimoto**

Film Director

Presenter

Topic 3: Afghanistan in Nostalgia

Mr. Tsuchimoto has been deeply involved in creating films that focus on the lives of people under extreme conditions as well as films that introduce the viewers to a world still unknown to the mainstream society. His works reveal reality that is untainted by the editing process, often used in a movie production, as a way of revealing the truth to his audience. All in all, Mr. Tsuchimoto's films transcend from being a vehicle of entertainment into a projection of reality.

"Perhaps reflecting back to Afghanistan in the 1980's could enlighten us with ways in which the country could revive itself from its current condition."



## APPENDIX



## CD-ROM

### Contents

- Photos
- Newspaper Article
- Materials
- Participants List
- Survey Results

### Instruction

1. Insert the CDROM into your CDROM drive of your computer.  
The top page will open automatically.
2. In case it does not start automatically,
  - i. Go to My Computer
  - ii. Click your CDROM Drive
  - iii. Open a file called 'frontpage.html'

### System Requirement

#### Hardware Requirement

CPU: Pentium II 266 MHz or above

Memory: 128 MB RAM or above

Display Setting:

Color: True color (24bit) or above

Screen: Display: 1024 x 768

#### Software Requirement

Operating System: Window 98, ME, 2000 or XP

Web Brower: Internet Explorer 5.5 or later

Applications: Acrobat Reader 4.0 or later

(Acrobat Reader for Asian Font Pack is preferred)

## UNCRD Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office

United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) was established in Nagoya, Japan in 1971 under an agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Japan. The principal objective of UNCRD is to strengthen and improve the capabilities of regional development planners and planning implementation in developing countries. It has four responsibilities: Training, Research, Advisory service, and Information dissemination.

UNCRD's Disaster Management Planning Programme was initiated in 1985 to support local government, non-government, and academic institutions in creating partnerships with communities for disaster management planning. In April 1999, the programme moved to a new office in Hyogo Prefecture, where the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake disaster occurred four years ago and its residents are attempting to redevelop their city. The Hyogo Office examines the reconstruction process in Hyogo and other disaster-damaged areas in developing countries as well as carry out the following programmes to establish disaster prevention as an essential element of sustainable development:

- 1) To provide advisory services to communities vulnerable to disasters in cooperation with governmental agencies, NGOs, and academic institutions alike.
- 2) To improve safety of core community facilities such as schools and hospitals, and cultural heritage that may be damaged by disasters, and
- 3) To identify and learn best practices in disaster management at the community

### United Nations Centre for Regional Development Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office

Hito-Mirai-Kan 5th Floor, 1-5-2 Wakjama-kaigan-dori, Chuo-ku, Kobe, 651-0073, Japan  
Tel: +81-78-262-5560 Fax: +81-78-262-5568 E-mail: [rep@hyogo.uncrd.or.jp](mailto:rep@hyogo.uncrd.or.jp)

Web Site: <http://www.hyogo.uncrd.or.jp>