

Minutes of Meeting

Theme:

“Disaster Risk Reduction Preparedness, COVID-19 and Sustainability”

(SDGs 9, 11, 13)

A Webinar of RCEs of Asia-Pacific Region to mark celebration of

‘International Day for Disaster Reduction’ (IDDR) 2020

Meeting time: Tuesday, 13 October 2020 11:00-13:00 hrs Japan

Standard Time

Venue: Zoom

Meeting content:

Hostress : Siti Fitriyah

Welcome distinguished guests and make a brief introduction of the webinar.

Part I: Opening Speeches

Sharer: Berton BNPB

Expressing sincere appreciation to all the organizers and participants.

1. The world itself is sick right now and it needs a cure.

We are now facing COVID-19 which has posed huge impact in all dimensions and is ruining our mind. Actually the governments all over the world had already be reminded of potential risks of a pandemic before the outbreak yet inadequate actions had been taken. It is obvious that the governments are not ready for any pandemics. Without governments’ investment in health care, how can workers around the world be risking their life to provide cares without proper protection?

Besides, there are many other furious disasters that bring about suffering, such as wildfires, tsunami, flood and so on. Sometimes they would cause more damage than the previous one. India is one of the countries where these disasters frequently occur because of geographical reasons. Over 3800 disasters occurred last year and caused great economic loss.

2. Some cures to the world’s sickness.

First of all, discipline, discipline and discipline. A very recent survey in Indonesia indicates that only 82% of the total respondents are using proper masks. About 20% people are found in public places without any protection. There are only 76.9% of the respondents have avoided the crowds. Others crowd in restaurant, sports centers and other public places. Some even said, “I never get infected by Covid-19” for their disobedience. Disciplines is to take actions to wear proper facial masks, to keep social distance and regular hand-washing. These may also apply to other disaster reactions.

Second, to appeal for actions of all. All the stakeholders should be part of the measures of disaster management. The young can also get involved. Youth engagement should be integrated as part of the framework of the disaster management. Moreover, modern and traditional technology methods can be jointly used as solution to the recent problem. It is important to know that modern and traditional technology are actually complement to one another. It is also a challenge for these combined technology to alleviate poverty at the same time and it requires the joint efforts of the government and individuals.

Part II: Guests’ Speeches

Host: Eko Ernada

Basic information about this webinar
Express appreciation to all the attenders
Brief introduction of all special guests

Sharer 1: Lt Gen Lavindra Pratap Sahi, AVSM

1. “Preparedness is the key to disasters.”

In order to follow this principle, we need to prepare ourselves to take on any kind of disasters which is likely to follow, especially in this year, during the pandemic. As we go along, I will explain you how we react, what have been the result and how we are continuing to take on the pandemic and ensure the minimum loss of life and property. The reaction started very early no sooner than the first case was conducted and then after it has been formal in directors and also been public corporation by each area. The joint efforts has been tremendous and be happening to keep the pandemic well in control.

2. Government’s reaction

The governments requires national local strategy of disaster risk by end of the year. It is an ongoing process: We carry out some sort of actions, as long as the mid-course correction and then form up once again by learning lessons from experience each time and improve the strategy.

Good measure and strategies for disaster risk reaction must be closely linked with medias, public health, education, culture, environmental protection, energy, water sources and climate change adaptation which is most important for India. Indonesia has already started moving forward towards long-term goals beyond the

pandemic, that is, sustainability in all dimensions.

3. The issue of Migrants

Immediately after the outbreak of the pandemic, lots of people started to move to other states or countries, started to go back to their hometowns. Every body wants to reach home safely and that is a matter of management, of the passports, of the medical facilities and medicine, whatever necessities they need before they leave for home safe and sound. Sometimes it requires the negotiation of the two nations. It is our part to make sure that minimum damage takes place. Indonesia had done a great job online registration and screen mapping of all the migrants who came back. This policy has been a success. Lots of people have come back from respective places where they work and are now taken good care of.

4. Indonesia is totally in control of all situation.

List of honorable achievements (lockdown 1-3 placed on 1.3 billion people)

Joint efforts makes imaginable progress possible: All the measures have been supported by each and every individuals, non-governmental and governmental organizations. The development of technology also contributes to make it happen.

Sharer 2: Mr. Ryuichi Nozaki

Subject: Telling live lessons from disasters for creating disaster resilience in the society

1. 1995, Great Hanshin Earthquake-Started from Zero



At that time, we have no experience and no preparation. We may start from zero point and the chaos happened. Then we start to reconstruction. As an architect, I joined in a reconstruction project.

In that time, decentralization was going on so local government and citizens tried to push back central power and keep local initiatives on their own:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

Reconstruction Fund

VICTIMS and SUPPORTERS	NGO/VOLUNTEER Network
M.T.G	LOCAL UNIVERCITY Network
Specialists Dispatch System	SPECIALIST Organization
SPECIALIST &. RESEACHER:	
ME	
KOBE RECONSTRUCTION	HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION
TEAM	5 Damaged Condominium
Reception of Observation	4 Joint-Housing
Discussion and Proposal	2 Collective Housing

2. 2011.3.11 east japan earthquakes (tsunami)



Centralized political power got stronger and local government's impact become smaller. The modes of reaction had changed a lot. As for what we have learnt from the precious experience:

LIFE IS GOING ON: Reconstruction is temporary;

More time for true recovery;

Pride and self confidence is needed

CHANGE SOCIETY: Reconstruction is big social experience

Reconstruction is school of DEMOCRACY

Sharer 3: Idha Kurniasih (Directorate of Social Protection for Disaster Affected People, Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), Republic of Indonesia, representing the director)

Subject: Supporting Community in Disaster Risk Reduction: A People Centered Approach

1. MOSA's policy direction on disaster management

Develop Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM) comprehensively.

Expand the coverage of social protection in disaster management.

Accelerate basic needs fulfillment for disaster affected population and psychosocial support.

Increase the capacity of human resources in disaster management in sustainable manner.

Improve logistic management system.

2. Community disaster risk reduction programs

1) **Disaster-prepared Village:** Villagers are guided to organize themselves and focus on the discussion on community consultation. They have the resources to prepare themselves for disasters. What we have been doing is telling them how to use what they have. We also provide support for villagers to establish their community welfare system. The program doesn't only apply to one village but can be adopted in many villages. With all our efforts, we hope that villagers can develop the capacity to deal with future disasters.

2) **Disaster Volunteers:** During disasters, many people are willing to exert their influences. They very helpful for the government and the community. So far, they have helped a lot in terms of food and water supply, distribution of resources and providing shelter. They come from various walks of society, including teachers, doctors and even taxi drivers. One of the innovations as a part of disaster reduction in education is that we have launched a disaster volunteers school program, which aims to increase students' awareness of disaster reduction. Volunteers will come to tell their experience and teach students what they have to do when disasters happen.

3) **Capacity Strengthening:** During the COVID-19, we have seen plenty of requests for capacity strengthening. They need guidance in supporting people. Trainings we provide can also help ensure safety of volunteers, so that they can play a better role in contributing to the community.

4) **Guidelines to support community initiatives:** We provide three main guidelines concerning quarantine and isolation, humanitarian workers, and distribution and cash based assistance. If you want to do something for the community, you can have these guidelines as start points.

5) **System and hub of information on response for COVID-19:** We have established an information center to provide reliable reference for people during such a special period. Volunteers can also get access to credible information when they try to help. There are quite a number of volunteer activities during COVID-19 response.

3. Questions of reflection

We all know that there are so many common problems in front of all countries, such as the COVID-19, climate change, increasing population and so on. The question is: are we prepared upon these problems?

The second one is that there are so many people living in unsatisfied conditions and even in displacement. The question is: how can we change or increase their awareness and how can we provide support and a better environment for them?

At last, we have talked about risk reduction which requires efforts from many aspects. How can we integrate more our human nature walks from different sectors? How can we reduce or even close those gaps?

These are some of our questions deserving reflection.

Sharer 4: Dr. Yoshinobu FUKASAWA

Subject: Disaster Story Telling and TeLL-Net

Now that many speakers mentioned before, I don't need to talk too much about my beginning. What I want to remind you is that many people died in the great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake in 1995.

1. Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI)

The multi-functional facility was founded in Kobe since the Hanshin-Awaji earthquake in 1995. It mainly functions as a museum. Records of the earthquake are collected, such as documents, photos, artifacts, etc. It is exhibited how the people of Kobe reacted to, coped with and overcame the earthquake. There are story telling volunteers in the museum, who can help visitors know about stories behind those items exhibited.

2. Various Story Telling Activities in the World

Pacific Tsunami Museum in Hawaii: Tsunamis in the past in Hawaii
Ache Tsunami Museum in Indonesia: 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami
International Tsunami Museum in Thailand: 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, etc.,
etc.

3.11 Densho Road in Tohoku, Japan: Networking of 2011 Tsunami memorial facilities, monuments, individuals, etc.

Asama Disaster Ruins, Remains, Relics and Memories: 1783 Mt. Asama eruption

Various commemorative events, ceremonies, festivals, etc.

Large, small; Public, private, volunteer; songs, paintings

3. International Network of Telling Live Lessons from Disasters (TeLL-Net)

1) 2005 UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction also took place in Kobe.

2) TeLL-Net founded In 2006

It's an international network of the individuals and institutions in different parts of the world It was composed of those who are engaged in support various activities for preserving the memories and stories of what happened at the time of natural disasters. They pass on such stories to the next generations as well as to other places than the disaster-hit areas.

These international projects are beneficial for cross-learning and collectively promoting disaster story telling.

4. 2020 TeLL-Net Forum

The forum was held in January 24th-26th, 2020 in Kobe, as a commemoration of 25th anniversary of the 1995 earthquake. 71 experts from 21 countries or areas took part in the forum. In this forum, some important points were discussed. In short, why disaster story telling matters?

First of all, disaster story telling has a very strong power. Those stories can contribute to psychological healing for story tellers themselves. Profound empathy and resonance can be created between story tellers and story receivers, since message information is conveyed at heart-to-heart level. What have been exchanged is Not only useful know-how' in a practical term, but rather something deep in our heart. The

message exchanged can be an effective engine to translate theoretical knowledge into actions. I also come up with a hypothesis: can the power of disaster story telling be turned to the power for reconstruction? I don't know the answer, but that's the point I want to raise.

This kind of story telling doesn't not necessarily happen. Some conditions should be considered. Level of activeness of disaster story telling varies from an area to another. We need to think about the reasons. We should have delicateness of the local debate as to whether a disaster remains should be preserved or removed. Another issue is whether the exchange between different disaster-hit areas can help. It needs to be noticed that artifacts or monuments can talk very eloquently when they are associated with stories of what actually happened. Disaster story telling can learn a lot from the art in that the both are a heart-to-heart communication. Besides, ICT is a potentially effective media, but I believe that stories, facts and places still matter.

Museums have to play an important role in disaster storytelling, because disaster stories are powerful and fundamentally subjective. A mere collection of disaster stories is not enough to describe a disaster, which is complex social phenomenon or process with a large time and space dimension. Museum curators can carefully combine systematic knowledge elements and emotion elements in designing a disaster exhibition. They are economical, helping save the cost. We still have a problem. The fading of disaster memories cannot be avoided.

Although COVID-19 has something different from natural disasters, we still can learn lessons from it and make better preparation for the future. The urbanization must always be prepared for sudden onset of pandemic, against which countermeasures at a societal level can play a big role.

Dr. Abdhesh Kumar Gangwar makes a brief summary on the above guests' speeches.

Part 3: Discussion

1. RCE members' answers on Dr. Abdhesh Kumar Gangwar's three questions

Questions:

- 1). What immediately comes to your mind when you hear the term 'disaster'? (5 words)
- 2). How would you like to observe 'International Day for Disaster Reduction' (IDDR) 2020? (10 words)
- 3). What message would you like to give to people on the occasion of the IDDR 2020? (10 words)

RCE Kuching:

- 1). Tragic loss of lives
- 2). Contemplate with peers on how many lives are lost.
- 3). Reflecting on loss, let us work towards a safer future.

RCE Hohhot:

- 1). A wide range of casualties and property losses.

- 2). I think this day in this year's publicity is very timely, necessary.
- 3). All mankind should unite to cope with the disasters.

RCE Dobong-Gu:

- 1). A sudden, unpredictable occurrence
- 2). To prepare various scenarios for disaster occurrence with communities.
- 3). Build a new disaster education system.

RCE Greater Dhaka:

- 1). Save me, Save us
- 2). With awareness and preparedness campaign.
- 3). No more man-made disaster please, let us work together.

RCE Northern Mindanao

- 1). Urban Flooding, River Flooding, Fire, Storm Surge and Earthquakes
- 2). Use Digital Platform to campaign, share and enrich the information.
- 3). Collectively encourage support and initiatives that will advance IDDR application.

RCE Cebu (Gloria Estenzo Ramos of OCEANA):

- 1). Challenging governance, inadequate response
- 2). Dialogue with all stakeholders in DRRM
- 3). Adopt DRRM as integral part of personal lifestyle and governance

RCE Cebu (Teodorico Navea of Sanlakas):

- 1). A negative occurrence affecting the people
- 2). By pursuing environmental activities that will promote awareness to the public.
- 3). Decisively end disasters in the light of God's word to preserve Mother Earth, a better place for all.

RCE Srinagar:

- 1). Move to Safe Place & Location.
- 2). Awareness & capacity building among youth
- 3). Every Household and School should have a Contingency Plan

2. A question for Mr. Ryuichi Nozaki:

Since the Great Hanshin Earthquake has destroyed many infrastructures in your country, especially for the building and housing reconstruction, how you and your country can manage them well to achieve recovery in a short time? Could you give some suggestions for us on what to do when an accident happens, especially for the building and housing reconstruction for people?

Answer: The year of 1995 did see an awful disaster. At that moment, our building industry was in a good condition. That's a kind of luck, I think. It was not easy to build new houses in disaster-stricken areas at that time, but luckily we have enough site.

3. A question for Mr. Lt. Gen Ravindra Pratap Sahi:

What is the most important thing that your country should do in reducing the disaster risk of COVID-19, as well how to prepare the economic sustainability after the disaster.

Answer: At the nation level, a country can't be operated efficiently without appropriate strategies. Making right strategies is the first step. In this process, community participation is required. To ensure a healthy operation of the government and the country, we encourage participation of all walks of society and all individuals, ensuring that everybody has been involved. Confronted with the COVID-19, efforts from all members of the country are in need. Besides, we also try to improve infrastructures nationwide.

4. Sharer: Mr. Igarashi Hitoshi

I want to share some of my comments and see how you feel and how to integrate our efforts to achieve our common goal. I'm from a small province of Japan. I major in emergence management.

When we talk about disaster management, there are two aspects. One is risk management and the other one is crisis management. When talk about community emergence management, these two should also be taken into consideration. The risk management means to assess disasters before they truly happen and take necessary actions. Crisis management which I expert in, is how we deal with situations of emergence effectively, efficiently and timely. We take all our studies and efforts into one common understanding. That's what we call crisis management. In today's talk about community activities, I have learnt so much. Thank you very much.

Now I think what we have to achieve is the connection between the risk management and crisis management. Disasters happen anywhere and anytime. We don't know when they will happen nor what will happen. There are always limitations in our sciences. It doesn't tell when, where and how disasters will occur. So we have to focus on risk management. But at the same time, we should learn how to deal with emergencies when they occur. We have pre-arranged plans based on all the survey, experiments and data, which is good. However sometimes when emergencies occur, those plans may not work. That happens all the time. We have to learn how to deal with emergencies. As you know, the government has a limited budget and resources to respond to all emergencies. Now who has to be ready? Myself, yourself, community as a whole. And then the government's supports and our own support have to be combined together at right place and right time as well as in a right way.

That's what I want to share. When talk about DRR, it not only means risk management, but also includes crisis management.

5. A question for Dr. Yoshinobu FUKASAWA

Upon the disaster storytelling, what are the lessons learnt and how the existing communities responded to prevent and reduce the potential disasters or prepare themselves to become more resilient?

Answer: Storytelling is about what a person feels when she or he is under a difficult situation. The person wants to share something about his emotions and

feelings with other people. The information you can get from such as kind of storytelling is small thing, which cannot save you from disasters. But I want to stress, storytelling can make you empathy and push you to implement what you have already known. As we all know, sometimes we have knowledge, but we don't practice it. Storytelling can function as a pushing force.

Part 4: Conclusion

Dr. Hyun soon Bae makes a summary on the webinar.

Eko Ernada extends his heartfelt gratitude to all present guests.

All gusts have a group photo.

Recorder : Emma , Garcia