



# UNISDR Office for Northeast Asia and Global Education and Training Institute (ONEA-GETI) 2012

## **A New Cadre of Professionals**

The City of Incheon in the Republic of Korea is fast becoming a hub for international action in resilient development. When the Green Climate Fund set up shop at Incheon 2013, they will find common interest with their neighbors in the UN family, including the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for Northeast Asia and Global Education and Training Institute for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR ONEA/GETI) which was established in 2011 through cooperation with the National Emergency Management Agency of the Government of the Republic of Korea and the City of Incheon.

The UNISDR ONEA/GETI was established with the aim of promoting disaster resilient societies through global advisory and training initiatives that support a new cadre of professionals in the areas of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

As an Office for Northeast Asia, ongoing support to the HFA Monitoring, HFA2 Consultations and advancing the Making Cities Resilient Campaign took center stage. As a Global Education and Training Institute, the team worked to build necessary capacities, processes and structures for Mainstreaming Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction into Development (MADRiD) and strengthen the capacity support providers for cities and local governments. The Institute reached over 350 participants from over 25 countries in 2012. Training modules, and technical working papers were produced and a new global partnership for DRR was mobilized in 2012. The impacts of these numbers are described below.

## **Mainstreaming Adaptation and Disaster Reduction into Development (MADRiD)**

UNISDR ONEA/GETI initiated a Mainstreaming Adaptation and Disaster Reduction into Development (MADRiD) programme, a four-year initiative developed in partnership with UNDP and other international partners such as WMO, IFRC, ADPC and the Global Climate Adaptation Partnership to increase social demand and political commitment for integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) into overall economic and social planning processes and strengthen human resources capacity development for integrated planning. Three cumulative Leadership Development Forums (LDF's) convened in 2012 brought together multi-stakeholder teams of professionals from government institutions responsible for DRR, CCA, Development and sectorial planning and training— including high level government officials and parliamentarians. Participants were involved in both the design and delivery of training material which built on national, regional and international expertise in mainstreaming.

Through the MADRiD programme, participating countries' representatives developed capacities for mainstreaming and developed concrete action plans with commitments to follow-up in their home countries. Many countries have already included MADRiD programme in their 2013 work plan and started to reach out regionally with MADRiD modules. Following examples illustrates the impact of the programme in participating partner countries:



In **Armenia**, MADRID material has been used as the basis for national training through the government run State Academy for Disaster Management.

In **The Gambia**, MADRID material was used to brief Permanent Secretaries from key government ministries resulting in new commitments for coordination in country.

In **Lao PDR**, MADRID discussions informed briefings of the national parliament and contributed to a focus on DRR in a joint dialogue held between Asian and European parliamentarians in Vientianne.

In **Cambodia**, MADRID dialogues informed the National Coordinating Committee for Climate Change and the national planning process for 2014.

In **Mongolia**, Mongolian NEMA and the UN Resident Coordinator have cooperated to foster coordination between related ministries and institutions.

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### **Capacity Development for Making Cities Resilient**

UNISDR ONEA/GETI undertook a joint examination of challenges and opportunities for bringing local capacity to scale, in particular asking questions about the fitness of national capacity development mechanisms to raise awareness, build professional competencies and share knowledge in the many cities and local governments and communities that are looking for guidance and technical support. A three-day Workshop on Stock-taking and Ways Forward in Capacity Development for Making Cities Resilient brought city and local government officials together with a broad range of development service providers, including National Training Institutions, Universities, NGO's, UN, IGO's and the Private Sector. Together they clarified important next steps in developing practical content for the many local governments looking for guidance in how to implement the campaign in their cities. The group also framed a progressive approach to city-to city learning and knowledge sharing through a collaborative platform. Partners made commitments to cooperation in advancing efforts to train trainers. Some initial impacts of these discussions are reflected in the new initiatives motivated at in their home countries. For example:

- After UNISDR translated Campaign materials into Korean, a Special Expert Committee was established by NEMA to harmonize existing Korean Local Government Assessment Tool with the MCR LG-SAT. As a result the Korean Assessment tool has been significantly revised. The new Korean assessment tool, which is linked to funding for local gov'ts, will be introduced to all 220 Local governments in Korea by NEMA in 2013.
  - Ecocity Builder, an NGO working to develop and implement policy, design and educational tools and strategies to build thriving urban centers, signed a Partnership Agreement with UNISDR with commitments to support capacity development and the MCR Campaign.
  - UNISDR ONEA/GETI partnered with UN Habitat and UNISDR Office for the Americas to develop and pilot training material for Making Cities Resilient.
  - Initiated new cooperation with the Korean National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
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which included outreach to 220 Korean Cities.

- The Russian Academy of Civil Defence (ACD) has established a new Making Russian Cities Resilient Section/Department and has submitted a proposal to the government to fund a new DRR Training Center within the Academy
  - UNISDR ONEA/GETI provided guidance to Municipality of Chengdu city in China to develop proposal for national funding to strengthen the Chengdu Training Institute. Similar requests have also been received from Municipality of Makati City in Philippines and from National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) of Mongolia. These signal an increased commitment of attract domestic resources for funding to capacity building for DRR.
  - A multi-stakeholder Advisory Group has been established to develop and implement a Collaborative Learning Initiative for Cities (CLIC) with and through partners.
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### **Resilience in Korea and Mongolia**

In 2012 ONEA/GETI was actively engaged with governments and particularly development planning leaders in the Republic of Korea and Mongolia to shape international agenda/ technical working papers on DRR and Development. It also provided support to Northeast Asia (NEA) governments and in particular National HFA Focal Points in preparing and sharing HFA Interim National report, promoting the Making Cities Resilient Campaign and HFA2 Consultations. Following examples illustrates the impact of the programme in Korea and Mongolia:

- In the Republic of Korea discussions of mainstreaming led key government agencies, under the auspices of the NEMA and the Office of the Prime Minister to organize the first national consultation meeting on “Post 2015 DRR Framework” on December, 2012. Participants reviewed success and lessons learnt, identified challenges and solutions to risk reduction, and fostered understanding and knowledge of issues imperative to making development resilient to the impact of natural hazards.
- MCR Global Campaign Tools and materials (Handbook, LG-SAT, and Campaign Kit) were adapted and translated into Korean language. Korean version of the MCR Handbook for Local Government Leaders was printed and distributed to Korean officials, CDI trainers and participants of Training Course for High Level Cities and Local Government officials organized by the Korean Central Civil Defense and Disaster Management Institute (CDI).
- A Special Expert Committee under the auspices of Korean National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has been initiated and coordinated by NEMA to harmonize existing Korean Local Government Assessment tool with MCR LG-SAT. As a result Korean Assessment tool has been significantly revised. New Korean assessment tool will be introduced to all Local governments by NEMA in 2013.
- Outreach in Mongolia resulted in new commitment and leadership from the UN Resident Coordinator in advancing DRR with national government. New working groups for DRR in the UN Country Team have been strengthened. The UNRC has led a new round of dialogues NEMA, sectorial ministries and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister focused on the HFA, DRR-Development and DRR governance. Mongolian NEMA and the UNCT have cooperated to foster more regular engagement of related ministries and institutions.

## Fresh Perspectives for the Future of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

A consultative meeting on Cultural Heritage and Resilience (CHAR) was held on 29-30 August 2012 with specialists from the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and its International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP), UNESCO World Heritage Centre, UNESCO China, IUCN – the World Conservation Organization, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and the Association of Korean Cultural and Historical Geographers, UNISDR and other participants.

- At the meeting Participants examined the value of cultural heritage and agreed that at its core, cultural heritage is essential to sustainable development. In addition to the clear economic values associated with tourism and traditional livelihoods, heritage is a source of social cohesion with symbolic significance that promotes shared identity. Historical knowledge is a source of both inspiration and innovation in facing future challenges. The group considered the important connection between cultural heritage and natural heritage.
- Discussions laid the foundation for further elaboration of a wider framework that establishes the protection of diversity as an essential feature of resilience.



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