

Statement by the Government of Japan  
Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

6 June 2007

1. First of all, I should like to congratulate all the participants from all over the world on the holding of this commemorative first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Disaster risk reduction is an essential component of sustainable development and an issue directly connected with Human Security. Bearing this in mind, Japan has been promoting to put into practice the Hyogo Framework for Action at the global level through bilateral assistance making use of our ODA, regional cooperation through the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre, and multilateral co-operation with the UN and other international agencies.
  
2. This Global Platform is the fruitful product of a series of discussions for strengthening the ISDR System, which certainly serves to the effective and efficient realisation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) held in January 2005 in the City of Kobe, which was stricken by a severe earthquake ten years before. I sincerely hope this session contributes to broadening the participation of many countries and regions in the disaster risk reduction initiative. Japan, on its part, stands ready to contribute to the discussions at this session and to help countries in implementing the HFA by transferring our experiences obtained through confronting many severe disasters.
  
3. Japan attaches importance to the thematic platforms, which are significant vehicles for the implementation of the HFA, as well as vehicles for assistance to other countries. Since many countries do suffer from frequent disasters, Japan believes that the role of the International Recovery Platform, set up

with the support of our government and others, is extremely important not just for in recovery and reconstruction but also for the sustainable development of societies. I would like to take this opportunity to express our government's strong commitment to this platform and to encourage other donors to join this initiative.

4. Japan also supports the International Platform on Landslides. As scientific technology now enables us to predict landslides, Japan will continue to contribute to this initiative by sharing our knowledge and experience.
5. I would also like to welcome the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) established by the World Bank to support low and middle income countries which are vulnerable to disasters. Japan will support it as much as possible in expanding its activities.
6. In addition, the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention plays a central role in promoting the Disaster Reduction Hyperbase Project in co-operation with other countries. This project aims at collecting and sharing current scientific technology and experience, and at utilizing them for disaster prevention. I hope this project serves the reduction of disaster risk by linking with the ISDR's Prevention Web Project.
7. In conclusion, I offer to this memorable session of the Global Platform my best wishes for the steady implementation of the HFA in each country. Japan will continue to do its utmost for the further progress in the disaster risk reduction.