

## **Korea-US exchange aims to strengthen response coordination**

**INCHEON, 8 April 2015** – Experts on response and preparedness from Korea’s new Ministry of Public Safety and Security (MPSS) have discussed how to strengthen disaster management with colleagues from the US.

The International Workshop for National Disaster Response System prompted an intensive bilateral exchange of rich dialogue between the two sides at the two-day forum at the Government Complex Building, in Seoul.

The Head of Disaster Management from the MPSS, Mr Gye-jo Kim opened the event which attracted the participation of several Korean government officials. International partnership is a key area of the new Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted last month in Sendai, Japan.

Mr Steven Douglas of the US’ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) introduced the National Incident Management System. Subsequent sessions focused on the importance of training to strengthen response.

The meeting was supported by UNISDR’s Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), based in Incheon. The forum was organized as part of UNISDR’s recently-renewed mandate to ‘operationalize’ the concept of disaster resilience and reinforce local capacity and leadership.

Head of UNISDR’s GETI, Mr Sanjaya Bhatia, said both Korea and the US had many common challenges and would benefit from such experience sharing.

“Timely and effective disaster response and preparedness is a vital element of overall disaster risk management. This in turn is increasingly recognized as an important part of the sustainable development agenda,” Mr Bhatia said.

The workshop concluded with several ideas on how coordination of national disaster and emergency response could be strengthened.