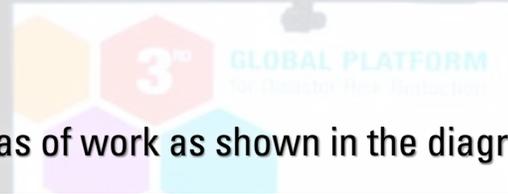


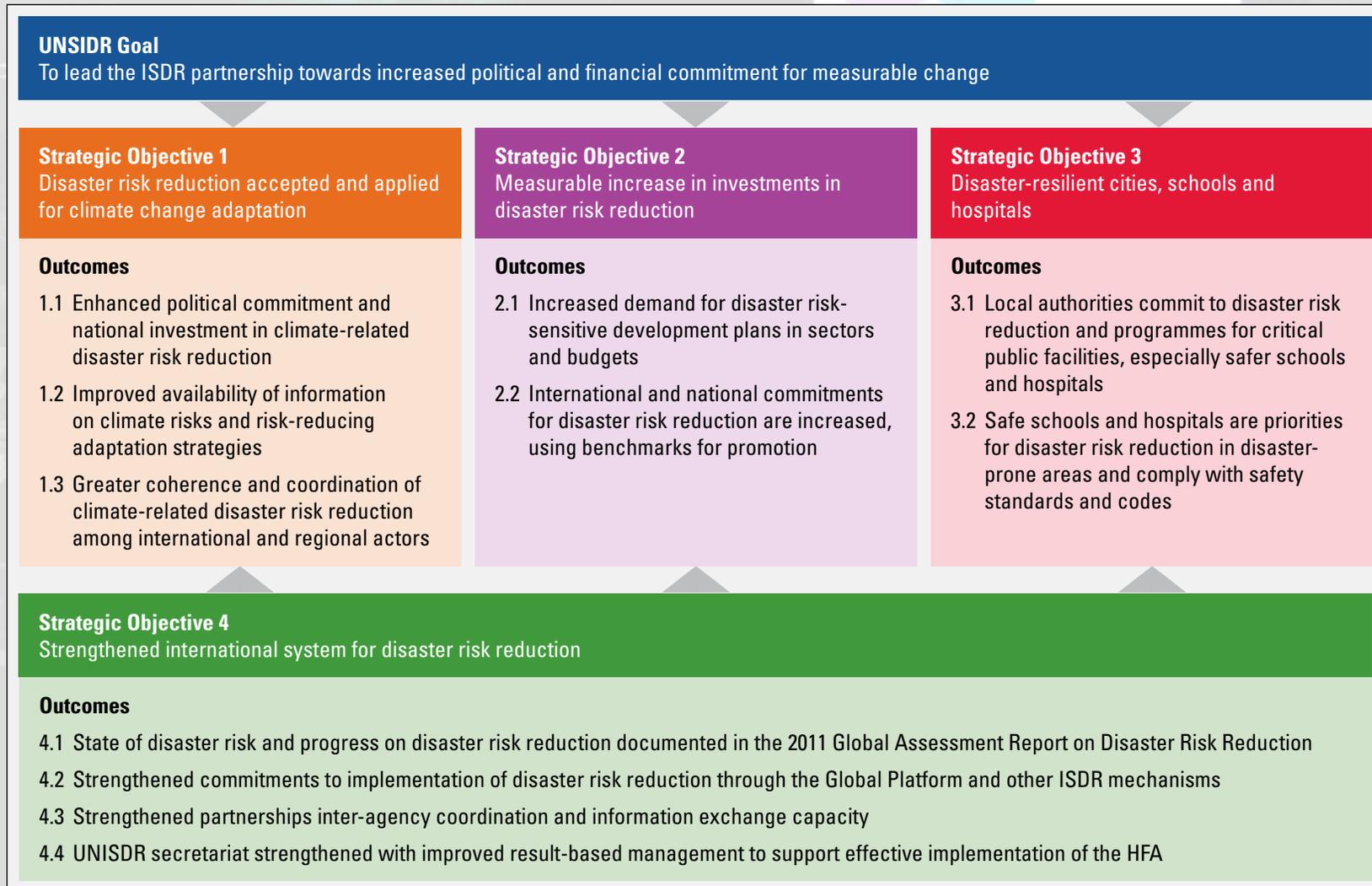
Laying the Groundwork

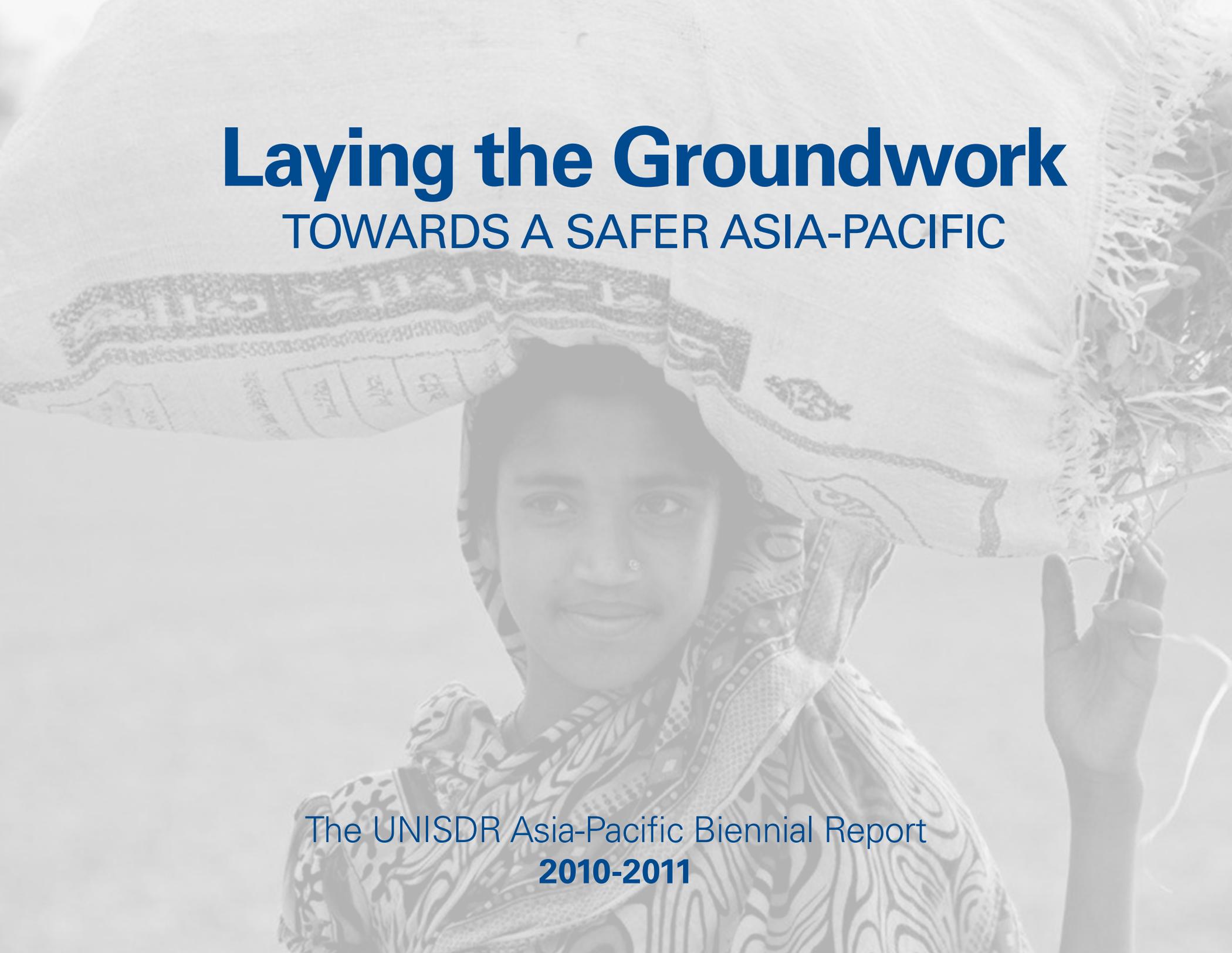
TOWARDS A SAFER ASIA-PACIFIC

The UNISDR Asia-Pacific Biennial Report
2010-2011



UNISDR's Work Plan 2010-2011 has four objectives and areas of work as shown in the diagram below.



A black and white photograph of a woman in traditional attire, carrying a large woven basket on her head. She is wearing a patterned shawl and has a small nose ring. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape.

Laying the Groundwork

TOWARDS A SAFER ASIA-PACIFIC

The UNISDR Asia-Pacific Biennial Report
2010-2011

What We Do at UNISDR

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) was adopted by United Nations Member States in 2000 and is owned by local, national, regional and international organizations. ISDR is a system of partnerships whose overall objective is to generate and support a global disaster risk reduction (DRR) movement to implement disaster risk reduction. It is guided by the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: *Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters* (HFA), which was endorsed by the UN General Assembly and by 168 countries at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005. The UN secretariat to ISDR is UNISDR, the UN office for DRR. UNISDR is led by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for DRR (SRSG), and reports to the UN Secretary General and the UN General Assembly. The mandate of the UNISDR is to act as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure that DRR becomes integral to sound and equitable development, environmental protection and humanitarian action.



The UNISDR mandate

To serve as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among disaster reduction activities.

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OUR MISSION

Catalyze, facilitate and mobilize the commitment and resources of national, regional and international stakeholders of the ISDR system to build the resilience of nations and communities to disasters, through the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.



Disaster risk reduction

aims to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards like earthquakes, floods, droughts and cyclones through an ethic of prevention.

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Message from the Secretariat

A number of the world's major disasters took place in Asia and the Pacific over the past two years. Floods caused huge devastation in Pakistan and several countries in the Mekong region. Suffering from its worst disaster since 1995, Japan experienced the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, triggering a tsunami, and nuclear accidents that continue to have tremendous impacts on people and the economy. Asia is the continent most affected by disasters due to its increasing exposure. In 2011 alone, disaster losses in Asia amounted to US\$ 294 billion, which is 75% of the world's total economic losses.

Notwithstanding increasing exposure in Asia and the Pacific, many of the countries in the region have made considerable progress in reducing vulnerabilities, and have advanced in most of the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA), which was adopted by 168 countries at the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Japan. However, underlying risk drivers—HFA priority for Action 4—as reported in the HFA midterm review, remains a big challenge in the region, as it is globally.

The UNISDR Asia Pacific Regional Office (UNISDR-AP) seeks to constantly demonstrate the benefits of investing in disaster risk reduction and generate strong political support for actions at regional, national and local levels. One visible indication of this political support has been the appointment of the President of Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, as UNISDR's first global champion for disaster risk reduction.

Based on the work consolidated during the previous biennium, the UNISDR-AP has put disaster risk reduction (DRR) in many Asian

political agendas in 2010-2011, and generated significant gains in terms of strong political support for actions at the regional, national and local levels.

The consolidation of partnerships and mechanisms, such as the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP); the support received from the government of Australia and the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR); improved knowledge tools at the country level such as *Desinventar*; and, the involvement of cities, communities, the media and the private sector, have also been determinants in generating more political support for DRR in the region.

This report is about what UNISDR-AP has achieved over the last two years, with a view of what can still be done to convince more governments to invest in DRR and implement the Hyogo Framework for Action.

As we lay the groundwork for a safer Asia-Pacific, we are very much encouraged about our achievements but we know that much more needs to be done. Getting together with the most likely to be impacted by hazards has brought us closer to the goal of being ready and be out of harm's way.

This report focuses on achievements and outlines what is in store for the years to come guided by UNISDR's new Strategic Framework 2025 as UNISDR-AP actively engages with key stakeholders on the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.


Jerry Velasquez
Senior Regional Coordinator
UNISDR-AP

Highlights of UNISDR Asia Pacific, 2010-2011



The UNISDR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNISDR-AP) covers 27 countries and 16 territories. It reinforces disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities in the region and supports ongoing disaster risk reduction actions undertaken by governments, UN Country Teams (UNCT), development partners, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders.

The Regional Office is based in Thailand, with oversight for the sub-regional office in the Pacific in Fiji, and the Kobe liaison office in Japan.

The Regional Office responds to the needs and requests from national governments and United Nations Resident Coordinators on disaster risk reduction issues. Assistance is provided through coordination and in technical areas, including advocacy, the development of national strategies and action plans, legislation, national platforms and resource mobilization.

Key priorities for the Regional Office in 2010 and 2011 included increased DRR investments through partnership and improved monitoring, and guidance on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) at the National and Regional levels; and increased investment in safer cities, schools and hospitals. With climate change identified as a driver for increasing risk, the agenda aims for increased understanding and capacity for integrating disaster risk reduction into climate change (DRR-CCA).

The Regional Office also serves as the secretariat to the Asia Regional Platform for DRR, including the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR and the ISDR Asia Partnership, and co-convenes, jointly with the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Management.

It works closely with inter-governmental regional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC); SOPAC/SPC; the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC); and, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), among others, to implement their HFA-based strategies.

UNISDR-AP works to advocate for a coordinated approach to DRR in countries, including fragile states such as Afghanistan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Timor-Leste. These countries incur immense disaster losses from intensive risks, further increasing the vulnerability of the poor and marginal groups such as women and children.

The report hereon conveys its achievements during the period 2010-2011, as categorized under three headings: (1) Snapshots of Impacts, (2) Key Knowledge Products, and (3) Key Results by Strategic Objective. The report concludes with prospects for the next biennium.

Achievements in 2010-2011

SNAPSHOTS OF IMPACTS: DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AS A REGIONAL PRIORITY

The **appointment of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia as “UNISDR Global Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction”** marks a milestone in the promotion of disaster risk reduction in the region. The official recognition of the work of the President of Indonesia in advancing DRR policies by the highest level representative of the UN system has been an important achievement for the UNISDR-AP Office and a clear indication that DRR is a major regional priority.



The **high level visits of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) Margareta Wahlstrom** to Timor-Leste (*shown in this picture*), Japan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam have brought increased commitment for DRR policies in these countries, including the development and approval of new DRR policies, legislation and investments.

Achievements in 2010-2011

SNAPSHOTS OF IMPACTS: ADVOCATING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE ASEAN

The **Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the UN and ASEAN** at the 4th ASEAN-UN Summit on 19 November 2011 put DRR at the centre of ASEAN political and economic cooperation agendas.



The development and implementation of the **ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)** work programme, including the mobilization of partners, was also a key achievement towards moving the DRR agenda within the 10 member-nations of the region. The advocacy for DRR to be mainstreamed in the sector work of the ASEAN focuses on education, health, sustainable urban development and finance.

SNAPSHOTS OF IMPACTS: ROADMAPS TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION



The **Incheon Declaration and the Incheon Regional Road Map on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation** were major achievements towards building climate resilient Disaster Risk Management (DRM) systems that will contribute to sustainable development at the regional, national, subnational and community levels by 2015.



The **Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management** held on 9–13 August 2010 in Suva, Fiji, which adopted the Roadmap for Integrated Regional Policy Framework for DRR and CCA in the Pacific, has enhanced the implementation of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Framework for Action 2005–2015 (RFA).

Achievements in 2010-2011

SNAPSHOTS OF IMPACTS: TOWARDS DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN FRAGILE STATES

While not an operational and country-based agency, UNISDR has done considerable work at the country level to **advocate for and coordinate assistance for disaster risk reduction in poorer countries**, including fragile states, through joint collaboration.



Development of the Strategic National Action Plan for Afghanistan



UNISDR Chief Margareta Wahlstrom meets with President Asif Ali Zardari of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Discussion on the development of Nepal's National Risk Reduction Consortium

In **Myanmar**, UNISDR worked with UNCT and NGO partners to secure the Government's adoption of the Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (MAP-DRR) as a national framework to mobilize resources and actions, and worked with UNCT and partners to promote the critical safety of schools and hospitals.

In **Timor-Leste**, UNISDR worked through the UNCT to advocate for DRR with the Government. Bilateral side meetings were organized during regional and global events. UNISDR collaborated with UNDP and the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), to advocate for a strengthened disaster response system and a shift to risk reduction as the country develops its basic infrastructure and services. Inputs were provided for a comprehensive Government-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment, which would provide essential information for mainstreaming DRR in sector and local development processes.

In **Afghanistan**, UNISDR assisted in the development and launching of the Afghanistan National Disaster Risk Reduction Platform (Afghanistan National Platform for DRR)

on 28 February 2010, in partnership with UN agencies, NGOs and civil society organizations. UNISDR also collaborated with the NGO, Church World Service, in the development of a Strategic National Action Plan for DRR (SNAP) as a priority activity in the National Platform Programme.

In **Nepal**, UNISDR assisted in the development of the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium (NRRC), which was established in 2009, in response to the high levels of risk and vulnerability in the country. UNISDR provided the overall convening and coordination support to bring multiple agencies to work towards a common goal of DRR. The programme includes five flagship projects covering the areas of school and hospital safety, emergency preparedness and response capacity, flood management in the Koshi river basin, policy and institutional support for DRR, and integrated community-based DRR, with an initial budget of US\$ 145 million. Over 40% of this amount is already committed to the programme.

In **Pakistan**, since the 2010 floods, UNISDR has advocated for DRR with government institutions, the UN and civil society organizations, and provided guidance and

“The Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium (NRRC) exists to support the Government of Nepal in taking the action which will make Nepal more resilient and able to address HFA commitments. UNISDR has played a pivotal role in helping build the Consortium by providing a global platform for support to this national coalition building effort, strengthening in-country efforts with political and policy backing from the highest levels.”

Robert Piper

UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator for Nepal

Achievements in 2010-2011

Quotes from the Asia Pacific Disasters Report 2010:

"...when it comes to investing for the MDGs, it will not be enough to build schools. These and other buildings exposed to natural hazard must be disaster resistant, and people using them need to have adequate preparedness for disasters." (p. 66)

"Countries will therefore need to establish dedicated lines of funding. These would not be necessary if governments were to integrate disaster risk reduction into overall planning, but in the shorter term dedicated funding is needed both sectoral and cross-sectional initiatives for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation." (p.46)

advice on multi-stakeholder coordination for disaster risk reduction, and for higher investment on disaster risk reduction in the country. UNISDR provided inputs and technical assistance for DRR integration to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)/One UN Disaster Risk Management (DRM) programme, leading to a strengthened position for the UN to negotiate with the government for disaster risk reduction. It also provided capacity building on resilient recovery, developing the capacities of the national and provincial government officials, the UN and NGOs engaged in post-2010 flood reconstruction.

In **Maldives**, UNISDR assisted in the development of the Strategic National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (SNAP-DRR-CCA). SNAP was officially endorsed by the Ministry of Housing and Environment in June 2011, and selected projects were included in UNDAF (2011-2015). The Deputy Minister and the Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority initiated a dialogue with UNISDR for a comprehensive fund raising plan to support the implementation of projects identified in the SNAP.

In **Viet Nam**, UNISDR worked steadily with the UNCT, the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and other partners to assist in the formation of a Joint National Platform on DRR and CCA as a multi-stakeholder mechanism that builds synergy between national policies and programmes on DRR and CCA, while providing a venue for both DRR and CCA experts to work together.

In the **Philippines**, UNISDR-AP worked closely with the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), and the Philippine Senate to promote improved linkages between DRR and CCA. After separate laws on disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) and climate change were passed, UNISDR facilitated the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council and the Climate Change Commission to promote knowledge management jointly and develop local action plans.

Thanks to its strong advocacy, UNISDR also gained, in the past two years, solid support from the local constituencies recognized as campaign champions by UNISDR.

The **Campaign Champions** are:

- **Mr. Toshizo Ido**, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, Japan
- **Mr. Joey Salceda**, Governor of Albay Province, Republic of the Philippines
- **Mr. Mom Rajawongse Sukhumbhand Paribatra**, Governor of Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand
- **Mr. Alfredo Arquillano**, Vice Mayor of San Francisco, Republic of the Philippines
- **Datuk Seri Hj. Mohd. Ali bin Mohd. Rustam**, Chief Minister of the Melaka Historic City, Federation of Malaysia

The **Campaign Champions** promoted peer-to-peer learning on local disaster resilience. By learning from champion Governor Ido of Hyogo, local government officials from the Philippines adopted the “Kobe Resolution of Local Government Officials on Effective Disaster Risk Governance in the Philippines.” At present, a plan of action for integrating DRR into local development planning is being implemented in the localities of the participating officials. In addition, action



The 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake caused more than US\$ 210 billion in economic losses, and is considered as the most expensive disaster in the past 30 years.

plans on solid waste management, community empowerment, and environmental protection have been adopted for implementation, as an outcome of peer-to-peer exchange between mayors and senior officials from Thailand, Viet Nam and the Philippines, with Campaign Champion and 2011 Sasakawa Awardee, Vice Mayor Arquillano of San Francisco, Camotes Island, Philippines.

On **gender**, UNISDR has started working towards the development of

Achievements in 2010-2011



Many countries in Asia suffered record flooding in 2010 and 2011, highlighting its continued exposure to disasters. Shown in this picture is a part of Bangkok, which was severely affected by weeks-long flooding in 2011—the worst in many decades.

gender-disaggregated disaster loss databases in countries in the region through *Desinventar*, the Disaster Inventory System, a tool for the construction of databases of loss, damage or effects caused by emergencies or disasters. In addition, UNISDR-AP assisted in capacity building for integrating gender issues to DRR with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) DRM team in Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam, as well as gender integration in the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (4AMCDRR) declaration, Incheon

Re-map and Action Plan by the Gender Thematic Working Group.

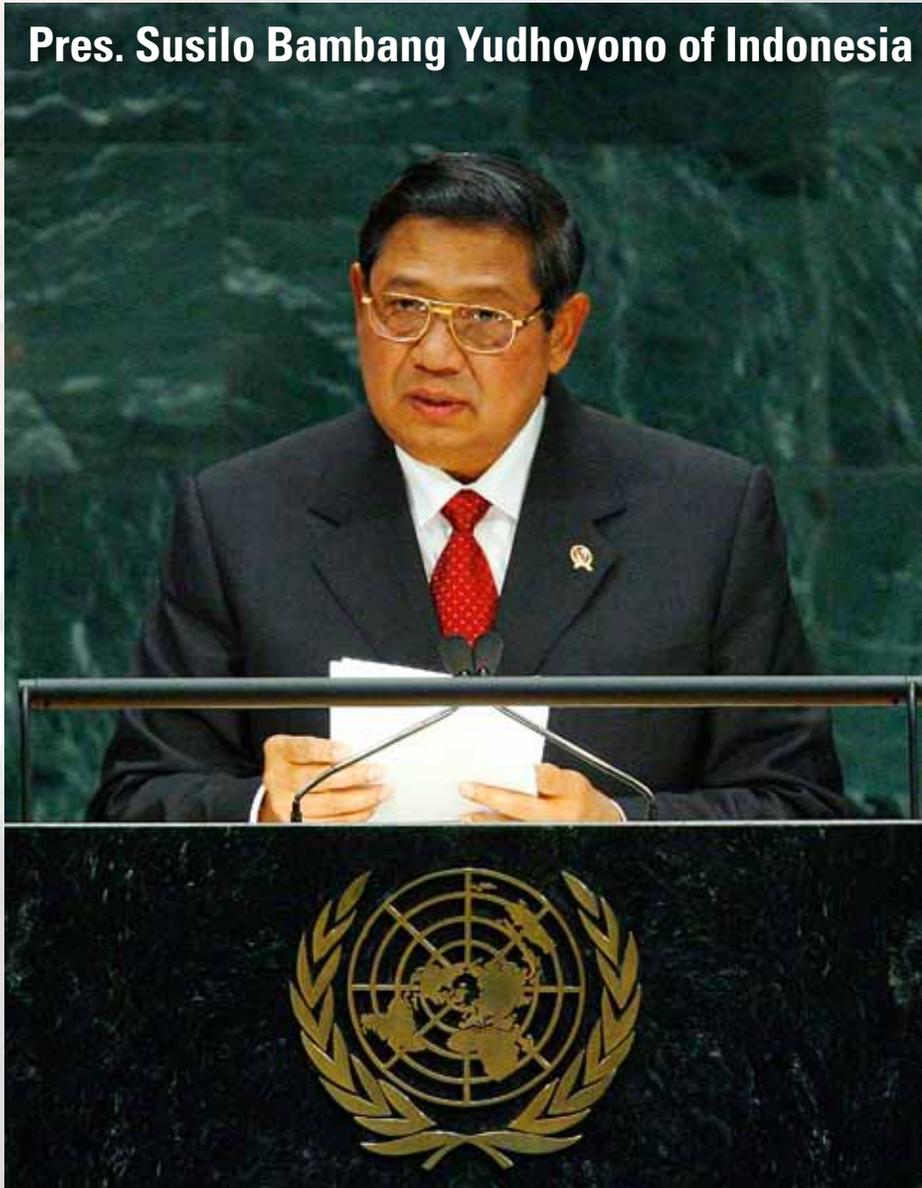
On **environmental issues**, UNISDR has consistently promoted the integration of DRR in environmental management, and brought together managers from the fields of DRR and the environment to discuss the importance of disaster risk assessment and management in protected areas management planning. Also, consistent with its commitment to environment-friendly operations, UNISDR-AP has been a carbon-neutral office since 2007, with yearly carbon audits and carbon offsetting activities undertaken by staff and volunteers.

In 2010-2011, 2,000 seedlings were planted in Thailand and 3,500 in the Philippines to offset CO₂ from office activities, including travel (by plane and car), electricity use, and paper and water consumption. Local communities in the plantation sites manage the seedlings until these are fully grown.

UNISDR is also working in partnership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and UNDP India on developing guidelines for integrating DRR ecosystem management.

The Global Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction

Pres. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia



President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono seized the opportunity to act fast after the 2004 tsunami to make Indonesia more disaster resilient. At the conferment of the Global Champion Recognition for DRR, UN Secretary General Moon stated, "Your country was the first to act on it. You led the way...and more than 100 countries followed." President Yudhoyono has pushed for the constant defense of disaster risk reduction issues, influencing national and regional policies and calling for more investments in disaster risk reduction policies. Among his main achievements are the upgrading of early warning systems and preparedness measures in his country, the establishment of a disaster risk reduction law in 2007 to systematically integrate disaster risk reduction in urban planning policies, the creation of a national platform on disaster risk reduction, the decentralization of Indonesian institutions to better protect local populations against disasters, and the decision to make disaster risk reduction a first priority of his political agenda. The government also demonstrated its commitment to disaster risk reduction through significant increases in funding for DRR over the past five years, and most notably, a tenfold increase in the DRR budgets from US\$ 2.14 million in 2010 to US\$ 21.4 million in 2011.

The Asian Champions



Senator Loren Legarda of the Philippines delivers a speech at the launch of her book *Redefining Development: The Living Advocacy of Senator Loren Legarda* in Manila in 2010.

Senator Loren B. Legarda FIRST REGIONAL CHAMPION FOR DRR AND CCA

Appointed as the first United Nations Regional Champion in 2008, Philippine Senator Loren Legarda is very much committed to promoting disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures in her country and the region. She has consistently clamored for the implementation of two laws that were passed in the Philippines in 2009, a turning point in the country's history: the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act and the Philippine Climate Change Act (the latter of which she authored and sponsored). Convinced of the cost effectiveness of linking disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, she sought for the integration of disaster risk reduction into the government budget and the implementation of local actions plans for climate change adaptation. Proof of her indefatigable efforts is the Asian Leader Award for Environment Policy, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation that was given to her during the First Seagull Philippines Asian Leaders Awards (2011).

“UNISDR’s continuing support to my legislative work in the Philippine Senate has been instrumental in integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in national policies and plans, and more recently, in introducing the River Basin System Administration Act and enhancing the National Land Use Act. Beyond legislation, UNISDR has been a principal partner in engaging local governments and the private business sector in strengthening community resilience against disasters and climate change.”

*Sen. Loren Legarda
UNISDR Regional Champion
for DRR and CCA*



Mr. Mom Rajawongse Sukhumband Paribatra (center)
Governor of Bangkok
Kingdom of Thailand



Mr. Toshizo Ido (right)
Governor of Hyogo Prefecture
Japan

The Campaign Champions



Mr. Joey Salceda
Governor of Albay Province
Republic of the Philippines



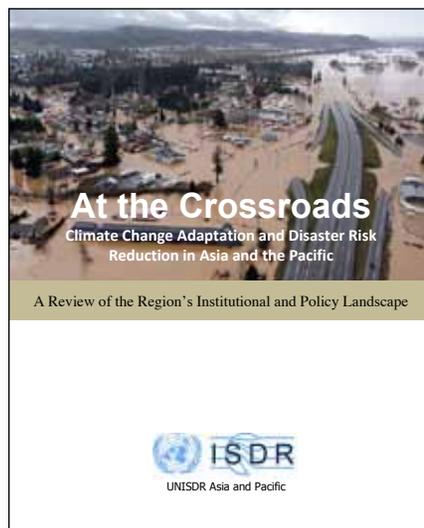
Datuk Seri Hj. Mohd. Ali bin Mohd. Rustam (left)
Chief Minister of Melaka Historic City
Federation of Malaysia



Mr. Alfredo Arquillano (right)
Vice Mayor of San Francisco Municipality
Republic of the Philippines

Key Knowledge Products

Vital to the region's future disaster risk reduction landscape are knowledge products that provide an overall picture concerning disasters, with due attention to climate change impacts. Also, through the opportunity provided by the HFA monitoring process, countries—and hopefully other sub-national units like cities and municipalities—can benchmark themselves strategically against the better-performing stakeholders.



AT THE CROSSROADS: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

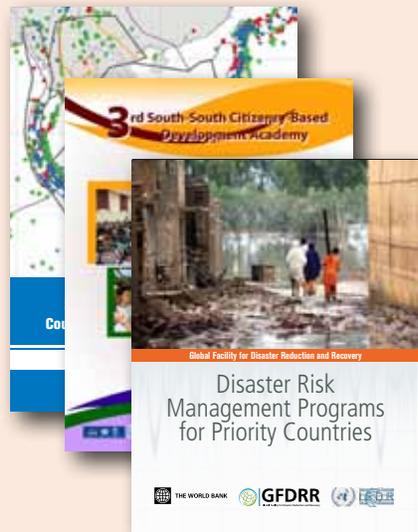
Providing a snapshot of how DRR and CCA are undertaken and integrated, if at all, in the Asia Pacific region, this report is a review of the region's institutional and policy landscape. It does so by taking stock of past and ongoing regional initiatives, and by looking into the role of certain organizations in the implementation process. It also discusses key developments in three areas—political, policy and institutional—which are instrumental in facilitating the integration of DRR and CCA agendas in the region.



PROTECTING DEVELOPMENT GAINS: REDUCING DISASTER VULNERABILITY AND BUILDING RESILIENCE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

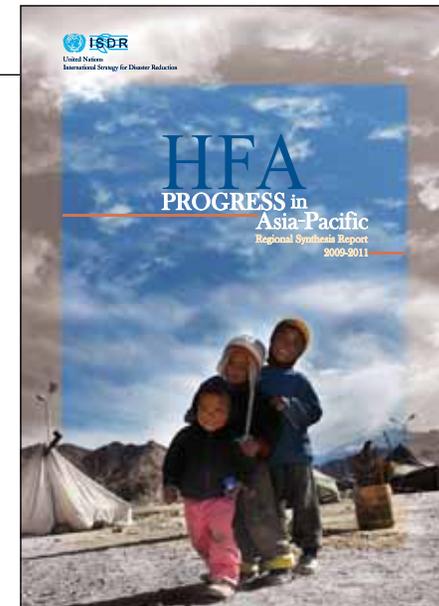
Also known as the *Asia Pacific Disasters Report 2011*, this was a joint collaboration of UNISDR-AP with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). It addresses the knowledge gap about the scale of risks and losses in a disaster-prone region, where disasters have disproportionate impacts on human development. It explicitly recognizes the impacts of climate change on DRR, considering the exposure of countries in the region to drought, sea level rise, tropical cyclones, heavy precipitation, forest fires and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF).

Reports

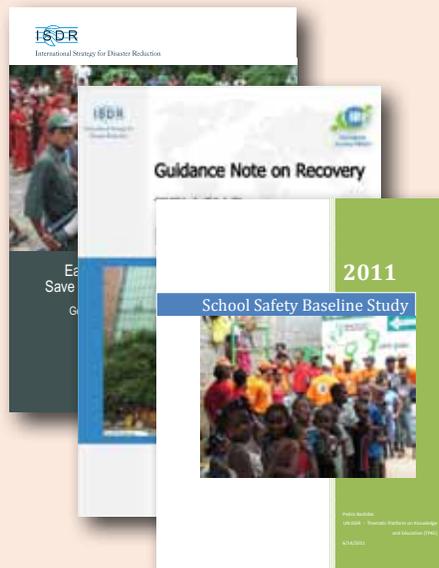


HFA PROGRESS IN ASIA-PACIFIC: REGIONAL SYNTHESIS REPORT 2009-2011

This is an insightful report presenting a review and analysis of the state of HFA implementation in 27 countries and regional organizations since 2005. The progress is assessed against and compared to the declarations and expected outcomes of the Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Beijing, New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur and Incheon.



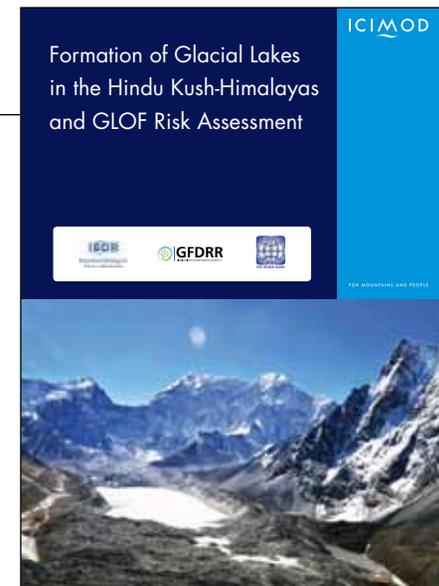
Good Practices



FORMATION OF GLACIAL LAKES IN THE HINDU KUSH-HIMALAYAS AND GLOF RISK ASSESSMENT

By J.D. Ives, R.B. Shresthra, B. Rajendra, and P.K. Mool

Intended to provide information for planners, policy makers, and development scientists, the report provides a methodology for mapping glacial lakes and identifying those which can be hazardous. The collaborative work with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery sets a rational basis for regional collaboration aimed at reducing the glacial lake hazard.



Key Knowledge Products

ASIA PACIFIC DRR PROJECTS PORTAL

<http://www.drrprojects.net>

Launched at the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Asia Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction Portal is an easy-to-use web-based knowledge sharing tool that answers “who is doing what and where” as it relates to DRR in the region. An output of the ADB-funded DRR Project Portal, it supports planning, programming, and cooperation and collaboration among governments, organizations and donors involved in implementing and supporting DRR projects and programmes. Conceived as resource for academics, students and the media, it has the following features:

- DRR Project Portal Video Tour
- A search function to obtain details about DRR projects including contact email addresses
- An interactive map showing DRR project information
- Downloadable DRR Frameworks, Strategies and Roadmaps
- Customized and downloadable graphs
- Links to websites of project implementing and partner organizations, project donors and funding details.

RESULTS BASED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RBMS)

<http://www.unisdr.org/asiapacific/evaluations>

An initiative of UNISDR Headquarters, RBMS is being implemented at UNISDR-AP. RBMS sets up an internal mechanism to monitor accomplishment of results at different levels and measure impacts. It includes guidance for result-based monitoring and reporting of budget and expenditures for biennial work planning and their linkage with outputs/outcomes. Supported by the E-management tool, coherent reporting mechanisms are consequently put in place. It has provided excellent opportunities to review capacity gaps and training needs, and develop a performance measurement system.

SOUTH ASIAN DISASTER KNOWLEDGE NETWORK
<http://saarc-sadkn.org>

The web portal South Asia Disaster Knowledge Network (SADKN), which was launched at the Global Platform in May 2011, is a web-based communication tool that strengthens the chain of communication among national partners of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation, UN Country Teams down to the lower levels. Among the accomplishments are training of trainers, an Operations Maintenance Manual for users and an action plan for 2012-2015.



Knowledge transfer and sharing of lessons learned drive the paradigm shift from response and relief to preparedness and mitigation.

Campaign Materials and Conference Proceedings



Key Results by Strategic Objectives

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ONE 1

Disaster risk reduction accepted and applied for climate change adaptation

Key outcomes, targets and deliverables are: National Platforms facilitated through provision of experts, guidelines, lessons learnt/good practices, and organizing dialogues for integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into Climate Change Adaptation by the national governments and regional actors in the Asia Pacific Region.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **3 regional platforms** - One Ministerial Conference in Asia and two Pacific Platforms for Disaster Risk Management
- **Institutional and policy mapping on DRR-CCA in 20 countries**, regional mapping for Asia and the Pacific
- **Regional roadmap**, action plan adopted at 4AMCDRR
- **Roadmap for Integrated Regional Policy Framework for DRR and CCA** in the Pacific
- **Viet Nam Joint National Platform** initiated
- **Collaborative work on DRR-CCA in the Philippines**

Dialogues for integrating DRR into CCA among the regional actors in the Asia Pacific Region have led to the development and implementation of the Regional Roadmap on



DRR through CCA in the Asia and the Pacific, and the Regional Disaster Risk Management Framework for Action (RFA). Declarations from previous Asian Ministerial Conferences and Pacific Platforms on DRM in the region were instrumental towards promoting information exchange and increasing opportunities to exercise accountability.



Philippine legislators adopt the “Incheon Resolution of the Philippine Parliamentarians on Effective Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation”, and call for the mainstreaming of DRR and CCA in the national budget.

CCA experts included in National Platforms/ coordination mechanisms for DRR and DRR-CCA duly integrated into the work of National Platforms

More countries significantly moved towards gathering stakeholders and organizing their respective platforms. The coordination mechanisms in the different countries took shape as follows:

Cambodia. Multi-stakeholder consultation was organized to discuss the National Platform on DRR and CCA in Cambodia. More than 100 participants from government agencies, academia, provinces, UN agencies, donors and NGOs lively debated on the objectives of the National Platform, its work plan and the institutional arrangements that should be built upon many on-going coordination mechanisms for DRR and CCA in Cambodia.

Thailand. Being part of the Government-UN Joint Team on Climate Change, UNISDR has successfully promoted for the integration of DRR and CCA into the UN Partnership Assistance Framework (UNPAF) for Thailand 2012-2016. CCA and DRR is one of the six result areas of the UNPAF, responding to a main objective of Thailand’s 11th National Socio-Eco-

nomic Development Plan (NESDP) “to prepare the people and the community to be resilient to changes.”

Maldives. UNISDR together with the UN Country Team assisted Maldives to develop its first joint DRR and CCA Strategic National Action Plan, which has since received Cabinet approval. This document has already been integrated into the next UNDAF of Maldives.

Pakistan. Working closely with the One UN programme, UNISDR worked with UNCT for the inclusion of a DRR pillar into the UNDAF for 2013-2019. DRR is one of the six pillars of the programme, aligned with national development priorities, strategies, systems and programming cycles.

Fiji and Samoa. The UN Country Teams in Fiji and Samoa have agreed to develop a Joint UN Programme on Climate Change under the Regional UNDAF. UNISDR is a member of the Task Team for overseeing the development of the programme concept. The integration of CCA and DRR will be one of the key issues to be addressed under the programme. UNISDR and the UNDP Pacific Centre are planning to collaborate in the development of a proposal under the joint programme that will focus on implementing

Key Results by Strategic Objectives: **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ONE**

“The visit by SRSG Margareta Wahlstrom to Myanmar to witness the newly-elected government celebrate IDRR day on 13 October 2011 was seen as an acknowledgement of their risk reduction efforts. As per her advise, the government started formulating a new DM law and revising the Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction in a very consultative manner. The SRSG’s visit also acted as a catalyst to the efforts of the United Nations Country Team in advancing a DRR agenda.”

Srinivasa Popuri
Country Manager
United Nations Human
Settlements Programme
(UN-HABITAT)

some of the recommendations of the Pacific DRR/CCA Institutional and Policy Review.

Fiji. UNISDR was invited by the Government of Fiji to present on the ‘Linkages between Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction’ at the Capacity Building Training Workshop on Vulnerability & Adaptation, held in Suva, Fiji. It was suggested for UNISDR to become a member of the Technical Working Group on Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment for preparing the 2nd National Communication.

Improved availability of information on climate-related risk and risk-reducing adaptation strategies

Together with several international organizations, UNISDR developed knowledge products that made data, information and study results available. These include: the first edition of the Asia Pacific Disasters Report 2010, which was launched on 26 October 2010 at the opening ceremonies of the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (4AMCDRR) in Incheon (with ESCAP); and the Pacific Policy Brief for COP 15—with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red

Crescent Societies (IFRC). The policy brief was finalized jointly and disseminated to national DRR and CC Focal Points as well as regional partners prior to COP 15. Positive feedback was received on the usefulness of the briefing paper.

UNISDR developed a Regional Institutional and Policy Mapping of DRR-CCA of the region. Described in an earlier section, the study was a response by Asia Pacific countries, as a background for the preparation of the Incheon Roadmap on DRR-CCA, an outcome of the 4AMCDRR.

Information exchanges vigorously continued through face-to-face group processes as well as web-based media. An example of the former was a regional workshop engaging the protected area managers from South Asian countries, ‘Protected Areas and National Parks contribute to Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change’, was conducted in India in partnership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with the participation of five countries from South Asia.

CCA projects in the Asia Pacific region are now captured in the DRR Projects Portal which aims to build on the process already carried out for DRR initiatives. The portal

15 Regional and National policies, and legal planning instruments that refer to the Hyogo Framework for Action

provides additional support not only to the in-country climate focal points but also to DRR practitioners while programming and developing projects.

Greater coherence and coordination of climate-related disaster risk reduction among international and regional partners

UNISDR-AP organized dialogues on DRR-CCA that took various forms suitable for different partners and stakeholders. For 'newcomers,' an inclusive setting was planned, strategically supporting desired outcomes.

In Japan, UNISDR conducted a series of meetings with the Japanese Government on various DRR issues including on DRR-CCA linkages and policies. UNISDR also started to assist the Pacific Regional High-Level Advocacy Team for DRR to promote the integration of DRR-CCA in development planning at the national and regional levels. In addition, the Regional Thematic Group on DRR-CCA Mainstreaming, which UNISDR and UNDP are co-chairing, was successfully launched during its first meeting, held on 19 February in Suva (Fiji), and was attended by 11 participants. The fourth meeting of the Regional Thematic Group on DRR-CCA Mainstreaming was then organized on 26 November 2010 in Suva.



The items covered are lessons learned from the National Action Plan (NAP) development processes in Pacific Island Countries (SOPAC and UNDP); updates from the national reviews of progress in implementing HFA and the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Framework for Action 2005-2015 (RFA) in the Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Fiji, and Marshall Islands (UNISDR); discussions on the Mid-term Review of the RFA and HFA, and the next steps (SOPAC and UNISDR); and review of the working group's Action Register.

Viet Nam's five largest cities and most important economic centres pledge to make their cities safer from disaster risks and climate change. Local heads pose with Senator Loren Legarda of the Philippines, the regional champion, during the National Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, when the Government set up a firm plan to establish a National Platform.

Key Results by Strategic Objectives

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO

Measurable increase in investments in disaster risk reduction

Disaster Risk Reduction knowledge and HFA Report promoted and utilized for policy and planning by National Governments and ISDR system partners in the Asia-Pacific region for increased investment in DRR at national and regional levels

HIGHLIGHTS

- Support for **flagship programme in Nepal**
- **HFA progress reports** from 27 countries
- Published the first **Asia Pacific Disasters Report**
- **More than 10 regional launches of the Global Assessment Report on DRR, "Revealing Risk, Redefining Development"**
- **Economics of DRR** launched
- **Launch of investment tracking studies** in 3 countries (Philippines, Indonesia, India)

UNISDR's advocacy among key development players paid off in terms of increased investment by countries towards reducing disaster risk, and activities are further leveraged because they are bolstered by new knowledge. There is considerable evidence that investments in DRR are extremely cost-effective; thus, "disaster proofing of development" in the Asia-Pacific region is emerging.

Increased demand for disaster-sensitive development plans in sectors and budgets



The publication of the first Asia Pacific Disasters Report in 2010, the Global Assessment Report 2011, and other knowledge products, has improved the knowledge base to guide investment decisions. The value of preparatory processes



The launch of the Global Assessment Report (GAR) 2011 in Thailand, among one of a series of GAR launches in the region.

leading to the actual launch of such reports cannot be underestimated and their utility is manifested in many ways.

The Regional Preparation study in Asia for GAR 11 included in-depth country studies for Cambodia in Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka in South Asia, and summary reports for 10 ASEAN and eight SAARC countries, with basic development, social and risk indicators.

The HFA Mid-Term Review, GAR preparatory work and in-depth studies sharpened recognition of implementation challenges and points of consensus. For example, one of the big challenges concerns resource and capacity constraints, i.e., the mismatch between available resources and capacities and needs. The Asia Pacific HFA Report says that this is likely to remain a challenge due to expanding disaster risks in the region given “its sensitivity to climate change and rapid rate of urbanization.”

Regional and national launches of GAR 2011 consisted of high-level briefings in Japan, Korea, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Lao PDR. In Lao PDR, the launch was made on the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR), which was attended by the Vice President, Ministers and more than 500 government officials, students, the UN and

other stakeholders. Briefings in New Zealand included one for the Pacific Platform with SPC, and in Indonesia, a briefing for the ASEAN Secretariat.

By the end of 2011, the first draft of the Asian Development Bank-assisted DRR Investment Tracking Study was made available for the Philippines, Indonesia, and India. Recognizing stand-alone and mainstreamed investments, a framework for allocating and tracking both types of investments was proposed. Tracking indicators were proposed to aid the mechanism that countries and donors might use for the investment process. The study built on the partnership of UNDP, ADB, World Bank and national government agencies.

Technical support over the last two years to the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium (NRRRC), a flagship programme of the Nepalese government, high level meetings and other forums paid off in terms of the funding commitment obtained to fill the budget gaps. ADB announced a contribution of US\$ 5 million to school seismic strengthening and the UK a contribution of £20 million (US\$ 30m) at the Forum on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia – Moving Faster from Policy to Practice, hosted by the World Bank and USAID held in Washington on 15 April 2011 and attended by the Nepalese Government, the World Bank,

Key Results by Strategic Objectives: **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO**

“Over the past couple of years, the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) opened its doors to a wider participation of stakeholders. For the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network, and other civil society organizations in Asia, such a forum is an important point for dialogue and debate especially since it is conducted in a neutral platform. Outcomes of the IAP deliberations now actively feed into regional and national advocacy agenda even providing opportunities for receiving feedback from the targeted beneficiaries.”

—**Manu Gupta**
Chairperson
ADRRN

ADB, the European Commission, the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the United States Senate, NGOs, the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement. A Programme Coordinator was appointed with the support of United Kingdom’s Department of International Development (DFID). UNISDR committed to support the development of a communications strategy and advocacy workshops for the five flagship areas.

At the high-level donor forum in Kathmandu, called by the Prime Minister of Nepal, in support of the programme of the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium, the World Bank report titled “Natural Hazards, Unnatural Disasters: the Economics of Disasters” was launched. Similarly, the launch in the Philippines was done at a high-level gathering called by the Senate of the Philippines. UNISDR-AP lent support to these important milestones, in solidarity with its partners. In the long run, the efforts made through these partnerships are highly constructive towards mainstreaming DRR in development planning processes. Awareness building among parliamentarians and high-ranking government officials helped build political commitment and nurture the foundations for DRR in a society.

International and national commitments for disaster risk reduction have increased, using benchmarks for promotion

The Mid-Term HFA and progress reviews assembled together various stakeholders at both the national and regional levels. The indicators of the HFA Monitor for the last two years were used to measure improvements over time, using 2005 as a starting year for benchmarking.

All 27 countries in the region submitted HFA progress reviews, up from 24 in 2009. In addition, a regional report from SAARC and 15 local government reports were submitted. As done previously, national governments were engaged in HFA reporting. The Asia Pacific regional status on HFA implementation was consolidated into a synthesis report, which contained the main findings of the country as well as sub-regional reviews.

The HFA reporting mechanism alerts governments and various stakeholders where things have gone well or gone wrong, while highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of disaster risk reduction and management in countries. The dissemination of HFA indicators to local governments is expected to further assist in strengthening capacities in provinces, districts, cities, towns and villages, where impacts of disasters are most felt. This translates to knowing where resources need to be placed in order to prepare and mitigate, to make their communities safer.

Regional platform meetings in Asia Pacific successfully organized to promote political consensus, policy initiatives and investments in DRR

2010 was the year when the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (4AMCDRR) held biennial meetings in Incheon, Republic of Korea. In 2011, the 3rd Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management was held in Auckland, New Zealand.

The 4AMCDRR was hosted by the Republic of Korea's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the metropolitan city of Incheon, and held on 25-28 October 2010. Generous support came from the Australian Government's AusAID and Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR). The conference theme was "Disaster Risk Reduction for Climate Change Adaptation", with a particular focus on (1) the convergence of DRR and climate change adaptation and, (2) available information technology and green technology.

The declaration, made by the Heads of Governments, the Ministers, and the Heads of Delegations of the countries of Asia and the Pacific, at the 4AMCDRR calls for (1) raising awareness and building capacity DRR and



Participants of the ISDR Asia Partnership discuss preparations for the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction.

CCA; (2) developing and sharing information, technology, sound practices, and lessons learned in climate and disaster risk management; (3) promoting integration of DRR and CCA into development for green growth; (4) urging all actors to scale up the implementation of the HFA, in line with the five priorities for action; (5) promoting investments on DRR and CCA; and, (6) promoting resilient cities—in recognition of the need to protect women, children and other vulnerable groups from the disproportionate

Key Results by Strategic Objectives: **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO**

“The biggest challenge noted was in the development and use of tools and research methodologies to support DRR activities and investments.”

—from *HFA Progress in Asia-Pacific*

impacts of disaster, and to empower them to promote resiliency within their communities and workplaces. It reaffirms the commitment to the HFA Implementation Regional Action Plan 2009-2015 to implement all previous Ministerial Declarations.

Significantly, with regards to promoting investments on DRR and CCA, the Declaration called on various stakeholders to apportion at least 10 percent of humanitarian assistance and two per cent of development assistance for DRR by 2015.

The Pacific Platform was hosted by the Government of New Zealand through the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management and the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs and Trade. While noting the success in reducing the number of fatalities resulting from extreme events, economic and social losses pose challenges. It was agreed to incorporate comments from the Platform on the draft “Roadmap Towards a Post-2015 Integrated Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation” with the view to submitting it for consideration to the Governing Councils of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. It called for the development of a framework/model to guide community-based disaster risk management and climate change work in the Pacific, which incorporates traditional, local and scientific knowledge and examples of best practice in the region.

THE UNISDR CAMPAIGNS



THE MAKING CITIES RESILIENT CAMPAIGN

<http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/>



THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION

Children and young people are partners for Disaster Risk Reduction

<http://www.unisdr.org/2011/iddr/>

As the next biennium approaches, a considerable amount of follow up and support activities have been proceeding. One concerns disaster risk management budgeting and financing, particularly assisting governments evaluate cost-effective risk financing options to minimize risk, including disaster reserves, trust funds or disaster risk insurance to facilitate post-disaster response.

The adoption of risk transfer mechanisms such as insurance and micro-insurance for life, livelihood (agriculture and livestock) and property, as part of disaster risk reduction efforts, has so far been limited; while further expansion is constrained by limited resources. This is the case particularly in the small Pacific island nations.

To build greater financial resilience to natural disasters among ASEAN members, UNISDR-AP, the ASEAN Secretariat and the World Bank with GFDRR, convened the First ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Forum in November 2011. This Forum gathered for the first time the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Regulators Meeting (AFDM), and the ASEAN Insurance Regulators Meeting (AIRM). A risk financing road map for ASEAN was drafted as a means to manage the worsening financial impacts of natural disasters on Member States. It was also being supported by the GFDRR and the Government of Indonesia as the lead country for Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI) under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme.

...The Secretariat of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the SAARC Disaster Management Center have been working closely with UNISDR to promote and strengthen disaster risk reduction initiatives in South Asia...Our collaboration with UNISDR has been very useful and beneficial, and has enabled us to share experiences, forged partnerships, and strengthen the imperative of DRR...

Pema L. Dorji
Director
SAARC Secretariat



THE UNITED NATIONS SASAKAWA AWARD FOR DISASTER REDUCTION

<http://www.unisdr.org/we/campaign/sasakawa>



THE ONE MILLION SAFE SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS INITIATIVE

<http://www.safe-schools-hospital.net>

Key Results by Strategic Objectives

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE

3

Disaster-resilient cities, schools and hospitals

National and local governments, international partners and other stakeholders in the Asia Pacific Region participate in the World Disaster Reduction Campaign “Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!” and Safe Schools and Hospitals initiative and implement the Ten Essentials for Disaster Resilience

HIGHLIGHTS

- ASEAN and SAARC active on **International Day for DRR activities**
- **More than 180,000 schools and hospitals pledged** for safety
- **More than 360 cities join** the Making Cities Resilient Campaign
- Successful start of **city to city learning pilots**
- **13 Role Models cities, 5 Mayor Champions, and 2 Sasakawa Award Winners** from the region

Schools and hospitals are key critical facilities in disaster preparedness. It is in schools where children learn about preparedness and the science of disasters. While serving an educational purpose, school buildings are also often used as evacuation centres in times of disaster. Hospitals, meanwhile, receive disaster victims that require medical treatment. The



Safe Schools and Hospitals Initiative is part of the “Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!” Global Campaign of UNISDR for 2010 and 2015 (hereinafter referred to as the “Safer Cities Campaign).”



Vice Mayor Alfredo Arquillano of San Francisco in Cebu, Philippines, demonstrates his town's ingenious "Purok system" to four mayors from the Sri Lankan cities of Balangoda, Mannar, Tangalle and Putallam, in a three-day practical study visit.

Cities, in general, are magnets for migrants because they serve as centres of social, economic, cultural and political activity. Asia is the fastest urbanizing region in the world. Thus, the UNISDR Safer Cities Campaign is most relevant and important. The campaign has attracted the interest of many stakeholders. Thirty partners at the regional level are supporting the campaign's implementation. UN agencies, including the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund, serve as key partners, along with city associations and organizations. NGO networks, grassroots organizations, academic institutions, national platforms for disaster risk reduction and other UNISDR partners are also engaged in the campaign.

Building Commitments for Safe Schools, Hospitals and Cities

Since the regional launch of the *One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals Initiative* in Manila on 8 April 2010, the *Safer Cities Campaign* has also raised awareness about the urgency to make schools and hospitals safer.

At the regional launch of the Safer Cities Campaign for South Asia, the Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Disaster Management Center and the Indian National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) convened 50 mayors from cities in India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives. The launch resulted in the following outcomes:

- ✓ Agreement by SAARC to review one major city in each country on how they are dealing with DRR
- ✓ Mayors from over 30 cities in South Asia signed up to undertake the Ten Essentials for Disaster Resilience
- ✓ Promotion of city peer-to-peer learning across current political borders
- ✓ A draft South Asia road map to reduce urban risk
- ✓ Sharing of case studies on good practices in urban risk management.

The cities that demonstrate advancements in implementing the Ten Essentials and offer commitments to help other cities build resilience through the sharing of their sound practices in local disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are nominated as "roles models." The

Key Results by Strategic Objectives: **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE**



UNISDR Chief Margareta Wahlstrom talks with a local municipal officer from Minmai-Sanriku, one of several disaster areas she went to during her visit to Japan after the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011.

Role Model cities in Asia Pacific are: Chengdu in China; Bhubaneswar and Mumbai in India; Mashhad in Iran; Kobe City and Hyogo Prefecture in Japan; Makati, San Francisco, Dagupan, Saint Bernard and Albay Province in the Philippines; Bangkok and Patong in Thailand; and, Islamabad in Pakistan.

Raising Public Awareness and Advocacy

International Day for Disaster Reduction activities were marked at the country and regional scale. The International Day for Disaster Reduc-

tion became more significant as city mayors made pledges to the Safer Cities Campaign on that day, such as in Pakistan where 30 cities from seven provinces signed up. The day was likewise commemorated with the active participation of children and the private sector. Similar signing took place in Bangkok, Thailand, where UNISDR-AP is located. Every year, the Children Drawing Competition is held in the ASEAN and SAARC with the Children-Policy Makers Dialogue on the International Day for Disaster Reduction. These brings both ASEAN and SAARC member countries together at the regional and national levels.

Commitments by local authorities also took place in highly opportune occasions, such as a UNISDR-sponsored workshop for local government officials in Incheon, Korea in October 2011, while two cities from Asia-Pacific signed up for the Safer Cities Campaign. In the Philippines, 36 cities also signed up for the Safer Cities Campaign during the Third Global Convention of Philippines Cities.

DRR advocacy also consisted of recognizing and encouraging people and local governments or organizations that convey dedication towards saving lives and property from hazards and risks. In 2011, two role models from the region, San Francisco, Cebu and Bhubaneswar, India (see insert), were awarded the Sasakawa Award.

San Francisco CEBU, PHILIPPINES

Grassroots Disaster Risk Management

San Francisco, a small coastal town prone to typhoons, won the top UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction in 2011, and was chosen for its innovative use of the Purok system, a traditional method of self-organization within villages where members voluntarily contribute to a money bank used by those in need of emergency funds after a disaster. Also, with limited access to the Internet, cellphones and radios, the Purok system is used to disseminate information and risk assessments, with Purok coordinators acting as couriers of information to residents.



Bhubaneswar INDIA

Community Preparedness

Bhubaneswar is a city in Orissa state, India, it has moved from one extreme weather condition to another: in 1999, a super cyclone hit the city reducing it to a ghost city; in 1988, heat waves took hundreds of lives and floods reduced the city to disaster.

In May 2010, the city government won a Certificate of Distinction from the United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction for becoming a hub of industry, education and tourism despite its hardships. Citizens are risk-aware and engage in mock drills and the city currently hosts state-supported institutions like the Orissa State Disaster Management Authority and the Orissa Disaster Rapid Action Force.



Key Results by Strategic Objectives: **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE**

“Disasters have rapidly increased in every corner of the world. We are all affected by those impacts, especially, our children; our next generation. With this reason, SCB has been very pleased working with UNISDR for six years to raise awareness among youths and children about disaster risk reduction. It is really a remarkable event to help us spread the words of ‘Save the World, Save Our life, Together We Can.’”

Mr. Prawit Sewaka
 Manager
 Siam Commercial Bank
 UN Branch

Support Tools and Capacity Building

Support to local governments was rendered through knowledge dissemination and transfer:

- Three successful city to city learning sessions were conducted; one in August 2011 with four mayors from Sri Lanka, and another with mayors and senior officials from the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam in November 2011, to learn from the experiences of the Philippine municipality of San Francisco. A similar city to city learning event called International Seminar on Climate Change and Role of Local Government in Dhaka, Bangladesh was held in collaboration with CityNet. An Action Plan was developed to match learning needs with good practices that local governments can offer. A plan was formulated to facilitate contributions by mayors and local governments to the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR that will take place in October 2012 in Indonesia.
- Officials of cities in the Mekong Delta and Central Viet Nam participated in a peer to peer learning activity on 17-18 September 2011, as they pilot tested the Local Government Self Assessment Tool. This was done

in collaboration with academic institutions, the Government and UN-HABITAT.

- Heads of local governments from the Philippines underwent a high-level training program called “UNISDR Caucus on Linking DRR and CCA for effective risk governance in the Philippines” in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan from 21-25 November. This is in line with the ISDR Campaign and city-to-city learning among Asian cities. The group learned various DRR measures addressing climate related hazards from the Hyogo Prefecture, including a dialogue with the Governor of Hyogo who is a Champion for the ISDR Campaign. The group adopted the Kobe Resolution as an outcome, so that all the participants will ensure actions specified in the adopted resolution for their own cities.
- A shorter version of “HFA for Local Governments” was made in the form of the Ten Essential for Disaster Resilience, a 10-point checklist of key disaster resilient actions that local authorities can undertake.

UNISDR is encouraging local governments to assess their own progress in the implementation of the ten essentials, to help in achieving the goals of the global campaign and to assist the

respective national governments in the biannual DRR review. A third tier of the monitoring and review framework using the Local Government Self-Assessment Tool (LG-SAT) enables the review of progress at the local level (e.g., municipalities, cities, provinces). The main objectives of the third tier review process or the 'Local Government Self -Assessment tool' (LG-SAT) are to:

- ➔ Provide a self assessment tool and a feedback mechanism for local governments and facilitate the understanding of gaps and challenges in DRR at the local level.
- ➔ Complement the national HFA monitoring and multi-stakeholder engagement process by providing information and an assessment of the situation from the local level.
- ➔ Present a "baseline" and a status report for cities and municipalities that have committed to the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, and share this information with other cities participating in the campaign.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has adopted the Safe Schools and Hospitals Initiative at the 2011 International Day for Disaster Reduction with both Education and Health Ministers

pledging for the safety of schools and health clinics throughout the country.

In the Philippines, the Department of Education (DepEd) has implemented a School Mapping Exercise (SME) through the GIS-Based School Profiling System, which establishes a database containing spatial data. A map of the Philippines showing the location of all public schools will also be prepared. The Department of Health (DOH) is also continuing its Safe Hospitals Programme, Hospital Preparedness Programme, and technical assistance in the development of the Hospital Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plan. In March 2010, ministers from both DepEd and DOH jointly pledged the safety of more than 66,000 schools and hospitals against disasters, as their commitment towards the UNISDR "One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals Campaign." UNISDR is now working closely with the Philippines' National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) in the inspection of priority schools in the country as part of the NDRRM Plan.

To get the message through to engineers, UNISDR-AP set off a Safe Schools and Hospitals Session at the Asian Conference for Civil Engineers (ACCE-2010) held in Bangkok, 1-3 December 2010.

“UNISDR through different ways has effectively assisted Viet Nam in building capacity, developing policies and strategies for DRR, such as: Promote collaboration between concerned agencies and partners and provide technical support for the establishment of the National Platform on DRR and CCA... The Global Platform on DRR in 2009 and 2011 played important roles in changing the behaviour of Vietnamese officials working in DRR and CCA, helping them engage in new approaches.”

*Dr. Đào Xuân Học
Vice Minister, MARD
Standing Vice Chair
Viet Nam Central Committee
for Flood and Storm Control*

Key Results by Strategic Objectives

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FOUR

4

Strengthened international system for disaster risk reduction

Improved capacity of UNISDR Asia Pacific secretariat to facilitate National Governments, Intergovernmental Organizations and ISDR System Partners in Asia Pacific Region by developing and implementing different strategies, frameworks, system and tools for effective and efficient delivery

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Staff trained** on DRR
- **Reviewed by Australia** (AMA review). **Update of management response** to 2009 evaluations
- **Increased staffing**
- **Increased funding support** by Australia
- Still a **carbon neutral office** (since 2007)
- **Completed Planning, M&E, Operations and E-management systems** for office operations

UNISDR-AP adopted results-based management to support HFA implementation. The results of efforts by the staff and management of UNISDR-AP were manifested in terms of systems and tools developed, implemented and evaluated. The biennial work plan demanded leadership and commitment from within and without. Both internal and external factors mattered, especially political support from high-level officials to local level mayors and leaders. It meant “working



together,” so to speak, with school children, teachers, hospital managers, doctors, nurses, and engineers, to name a few, as well as international governmental organizations and partners.



Children planting trees in Cambodia— simple actions with multiple benefits, such as reducing damage associated with floods and high winds. This can also help restore ecological balance, maintain biological diversity and stabilize the soil.

Knowledge and information generated, leveraged and utilized

DRR knowledge management tools are in the form of databases, methodologies, studies, and the Internet. For the latter, the Asia Pacific DRR Projects Portal and disaster information management systems such as Desinventar are currently used at different stages of implementation in countries like India, Brunei Darussalam, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Philippines. UNISDR-AP conducted a regional training for selected countries in the region with the support of UNDP Regional Centre towards the implementation of national disaster loss databases. Based on the feedback, the UNISDR-AP is now leading the implementation in India, Philippines, Myanmar, Brunei Darussalam and Lao PDR. These national disaster loss databases once established will not only facilitate the government in understanding the extensive risks but also help provide a systematic and disaggregated mechanism for data capturing. Knowing the needs of regional level data sharing to address transboundary risks, UNISDR-AP has been advocating for a regional level loss database for the ASEAN member countries which could be hosted at the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Centre as endorsed at the last ASEAN Summit.

The Disaster Risk Reduction Project Portal developed under the umbrella of ISDR Asia Partnership and executed by ADPC with funding support from ADB was launched at the 4AMCDRR. Phase 1 of the initiative focused on capturing regional DRR projects and, later in the biennium, progressed to collecting information on national level DRR projects and initiatives. This provides additional support not only to the in-country DRR practitioners but also to climate focal points while programming and developing projects and collaborating with IGOs and donors. It has proven to be a useful resource for donors, project managers, regional entities, academics, students and the media for obtaining an overview of the type of DRR projects being implemented in the Asia-Pacific region.

UNISDR-AP developed and finalized a grant agreement with SOPAC to support the redesign of the Pacific Disaster Network and other information systems supported by the SOPAC Disaster Risk Programme. The Pacific Disaster Network redesign looked at opportunities to enhance and improve the user friendliness of search and navigation, and other current functionalities, implementing new functionalities, as well as preparing for integration and with other systems. In

Key Results by Strategic Objectives: STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FOUR

“Designing and delivering an RBMS for the type of work that we do is no easy task and I commend your team for your efforts.”

Mr. Ayaz Pervaiz
 RBMS Specialist
 Head, GFDRR Central
 Results Team

In addition, the Pacific Disaster Network was redesigned to accommodate French language functionalities which have arisen as a result of the ‘expansion’ of its usage into the Pacific French territories, while opportunities to link with the Prevention Web were being explored.

UNISDR worked with the Indonesian Government in the setup and analysis of a standardized disaster loss database managed and hosted by National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB). *Dibi*, as it is called nationally, has national risk maps and uses a history disaster risk index. The database acts as the point of reference for the National Disaster Management Plan and National Action Plan for DRR. The historical loss analysis is also used as the basis for advocating

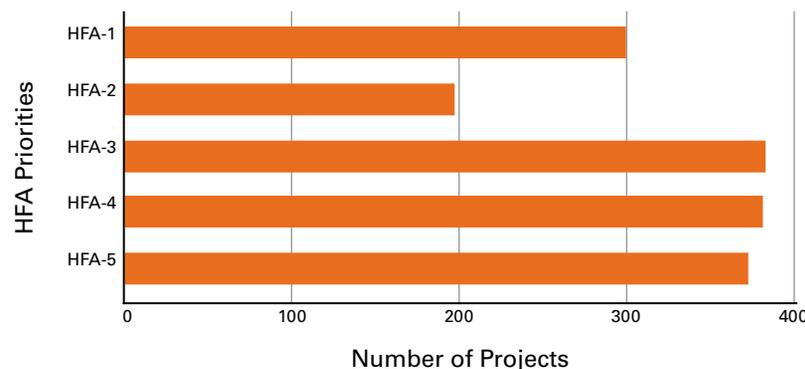
districts/cities to establish BPBD (district disaster management agencies) and the allocation of disaster management funds. UNISDR worked with the Government in the setup and analysis of this database.

Knowledge dissemination and sharing takes shape through training and capacity building. India has reported significant investments in training and capacity building programmes, particularly for government officials, in the current review cycle. The Government of India has even earmarked funds specifically for this purpose over a five-year period. It is also in the process of developing a comprehensive human resource development plan as part of its Disaster Management Programme.

Projects by HFA Priorities

The Distribution of regional DRR and CCA projects in the Asia-Pacific region to HFA Priority areas, as captured by the DRR Projects Portal—

<http://www.drrprojects.net>



A study was conducted in the Asia Pacific to review how well cross-cutting issues were captured in the HFA in the 2007-2009 reporting cycle by the Gender Thematic Working Group of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The recommendations were provided to the UNISDR Focal Team on HFA Monitor for incorporation in the guidance for the 2009-2011 cycle, and shared for peer review at the Gender Thematic Working Group of the RCM.

Under the GFDRR South Asia programme, knowledge products include a tool kit for integrating DRR and CCA issues in ecosystem management and protected area management focusing on coastal and marine areas. Done in partnership with UNDP India, it is due for release at the forthcoming Convention on Biological Diversity, COP11. Another is Tools for the Assessment of School and Hospital Safety for Multi-Hazards in South Asia, which is a cooperative effort between UN-HABITAT, UNISDR and the SAARC Disaster Management Centre. This complements the recent work by the SAARC Disaster Management Centre, Rapid Assessment of Structural and Non-Structural Assessment of School and Hospital Buildings in SAARC Countries. Other knowledge products from this programme are the study report on the Glacial Lake



The UNISDR-AP Staff hold their annual teambuilding exercise.

Outburst Floods in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region and the South Asia Disaster Knowledge Network (SADKN) web portal.

Such positive developments show how partners take part in attaining the HFA strategic objectives, and the goal of resilient nations and communities. The ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP), which has met periodically since 2007, is considered useful by more than 90 per cent of respondents in a survey conducted

Key Results by Strategic Objectives: **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FOUR**

As Prime Minister Noda announced last fall in his address at the UN General Assembly, Japan offers to host the third World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015. We will support the strengthening of disaster risk reduction policy in other countries through our participation and contribution to the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and other international fora.

Mr. Masaharu Nakagawa
Minister of State for Disaster Management
Government of Japan

during the ISDR Asia Partnership Meeting in September 2011. The same percentage deems that the Partnership is an effective mechanism to support the regional platform and the Asia Ministerial conferences.

Likewise, 88 per cent mentioned that the ISDR Asia Partnership has been effective as a partnership forum in the region. In terms of what the organizations can do, hosting the ISDR Asia Partnership meeting on a rotation basis and making membership a formal process were favoured by about 76 per cent of the respondents. Indeed the it has created space for the discussion of DRR advocacy. One participant wrote, "...but that era has passed and we need accountability." The comment ties well with another saying that the "UNISDR regional office should take more leadership role in guiding the IAP forum agenda and should have some road map along with targets in the regions which should be discussed with members."

UNISDR-AP provides support to inter-governmental organizations (IGO) from the region and chairs the ISDR Asia Partnership. This has been the case, particularly during the preparation for the 3rd Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (Global Platform 2011). The regional work plan, that has

been prepared and updated regularly, includes support to Asia Pacific countries in preparation for the Global Platform. A number of Asian and Pacific countries have formed their delegations and registered for participation. Role assignments of representatives from the region for the different sessions, including Champions of the Resilient Cities Campaigns, had also been defined so that participation is made effective in the regional and global platforms.

Enhanced communication with various stakeholders

Partnerships with United Nations Country Teams in countries of strategic importance to promote the DRR agenda were established through meetings of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on DRR with heads of State and high-ranking officials.

In Pakistan, integration of DRR into the development planning processes, under the on-going decentralization process, and the UN Development Assistance Framework 2013-2018 were discussed with the President.

In Timor-Leste, the mission discussed strategic approach to develop a national framework

for disaster response and recovery in the next 12 months, addressing the overlapping institutional roles and mechanisms for civil-military cooperation.

The partnership facilitator also coordinated the production of 'Footprints', the regional newsletter of the Pacific Regional Partnership Network. UNISDR contributed in the Pacific Regional United Nations Development Assistance Framework prioritization retreat, held from 27-28 October 2011 in Nadi, Fiji for the members of the United Nations Country Teams, representatives of Pacific island governments and regional partners.

UNISDR-AP has been capacitated on incorporating DRR in the UN Development Assistance Framework process; the staff is also part of the roster of the UN System Staff College. UNISDR is planning to utilize this resource to assist countries in incorporating DRR into the 2011 and future UN Development Assistance Frameworks. These countries include India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Pacific (Fiji and Samoa), Bangladesh and Mongolia.

UNISDR-AP has also provided inputs into the UN Development Assistance Framework of Thailand, and in the UN Country Team retreat



to prepare the UN Development Assistance Framework in Maldives. These will serve to determine modalities for providing DRR inputs into the upcoming UN Development Assistance Framework in the region.

To reach out to a wider audience, UNISDR-AP has made timely use of the International Day for Disaster Reduction, whether national or regional in scope, to increase awareness about DRR and engage different stakeholders.

UNISDR-AP has been holding training and capacity building activities for the media, which serve as important partners in advocating DRR and disaster preparedness.

Key Results by Strategic Objectives: **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FOUR**



The UNISDR-AP office in Bangkok has been carbon neutral since 2007 and UNISDR Staff regularly undertake carbon offsetting activities.

In 2011, 20 school children were invited to Bangkok to discuss the charter on education that was adopted during the last Global Platform on DRR. Thousands of other events were also organized all over Asia Pacific by various partners.

Wide coverage of the event by print, radio and TV media in different locations have produced dividends. UNISDR-AP has also consistently collaborated with media through interviews,

press releases and press kits. Capacity building has also been extended to the media. Media training was conducted as one of the pre-conference events for the 4th Asian Ministerial Conference in October 2010.

Likewise, during the pre-conference events dealing with media for the ISDR Asia Partnership meeting for 2011 held in Jakarta from 29-31 of March, some 20 media representatives from influential media organizations in the region (such as the *Times of India*, *Jakarta Post*, *Tempo Magazine*, Vietnam TV, Seoul Broadcasting system, Nepal News Agency, and China CCTV) were trained in DRR. Seven national platforms from Asia also underwent training in media relations and how to better interact with media.

To address the ongoing Making Resilient Cities Campaign and One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals Initiative, standardized communication materials have been developed. Many of the materials have been translated to the Hindi, Bahasa and Thai languages.

Secretariat resources enhanced

All the activities described would not have been possible without the organization's

resources—staff and management, funding, secretariat office and facilities. The improved capacity of UNISDR-AP has resulted due to increased staffing, staff training, increased funding support from Australia, and the consistent application of fully updated management response to recommendations from the 2009 evaluations made of Secretariat operations. Staff retreats for all regional staff members in the region were organized during each year. This retreat focused on communication, team building and time management.

Three staff members from UNISDR participated in Regional Training on Disaster Management, organized by ADPC.

A training programme was developed for 2010, which focused on capacity building of staff in Monitoring and Evaluation, Climate Change, and Communication. Training on climate change was included among the topics for staff training in 2011.

Planning, monitoring and evaluation, financial tracking, operations, and E-management systems are also in place. The Results-Based Management System initiated in 2008 has been enhanced, as the Performance Measure-

ment System has been adopted. In 2009, a pilot programme to develop an online work planning, reporting and financial tracking system was started in the Asia Pacific Regional Office. In 2010, this pilot was expanded, with the E-Management Tool used for work planning and activity and output reporting to all UNISDR regional offices.

The monitoring and evaluation framework is continuously improved, while a bi-monthly update is distributed to partners, the Asia Pacific group and the inter-agency group in Geneva. Regional work planning retreat is held in January or February of each year.

At the same time, the office in Bangkok has been a carbon neutral office since 2007.

The Private Sector should take an active interest in investing more in human, technical and financial resources to build the resilience of nations and communities, and using core business arrangements, business continuity, philanthropy, and corporate social responsibility to support communities, local and national governments as well as international organizations in saving lives and livelihoods.

It is in our shared interest to pursue economic development that does not create risks, and that we are prepared for new complex risks of the future. The private sector, with a multitude of business models and resources, offers a multitude of possibilities for the benefit of society.

Sandra Wu
Chief Executive Officer
Kokusai Kogyo

The New Biennium: The Way Forward



During the past two years, UNISDR-AP teamed up with all its partners to move the region closer to the HFA goals, ever guided by UNISDR's Strategic Framework 2005-2015, as the year 2015 approaches. Adding key insights acquired over the years, and acting upon lessons learned, UNISDR has made full use of several windows of opportunities offered by partnerships with stakeholders ranging from school children, local governments and private companies to national and regional platforms, multilateral and UN Organizations.

In addition, the appointment of disaster risk reduction champions at the local, regional and global levels has helped stimulate a powerful lobby to both drive and sustain DRR initiatives in various cities and countries. Continued efforts to engage the private sector to raise awareness on disaster mitigation, preparedness and risk transfer have resulted in a report that promises to ensure commitments from stakeholders to continue into the future.

Cognizant of the positive inroads that have been made to date, UNISDR-AP's Work Plan for 2012-2013 articulates four key objectives that will help crystallize future solutions:

1. To lead and coordinate: Strengthened support to the implementation and coordination of the ISDR and the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and improved coherence with climate adaptation

As the HFA and MDGs are halfway through their target years, UNISDR-AP shall exercise its regional leadership in DRR, which it has sustained over the last five years. This will enhance commitments and actions to mainstream DRR in the various sectors, while paying attention to links with CCA. UNISDR-AP shall continue to provide technical and substantial input to regional platforms and the IAP, as well as provide support to ASEAN countries to carry out the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). It shall undertake concrete steps to ensure the performance of the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Risk Reduction through the ASEAN DRR Portal's knowledge management and early warning system. The vital coordinative function of UNISDR-AP will also continue, for consultations leading to a

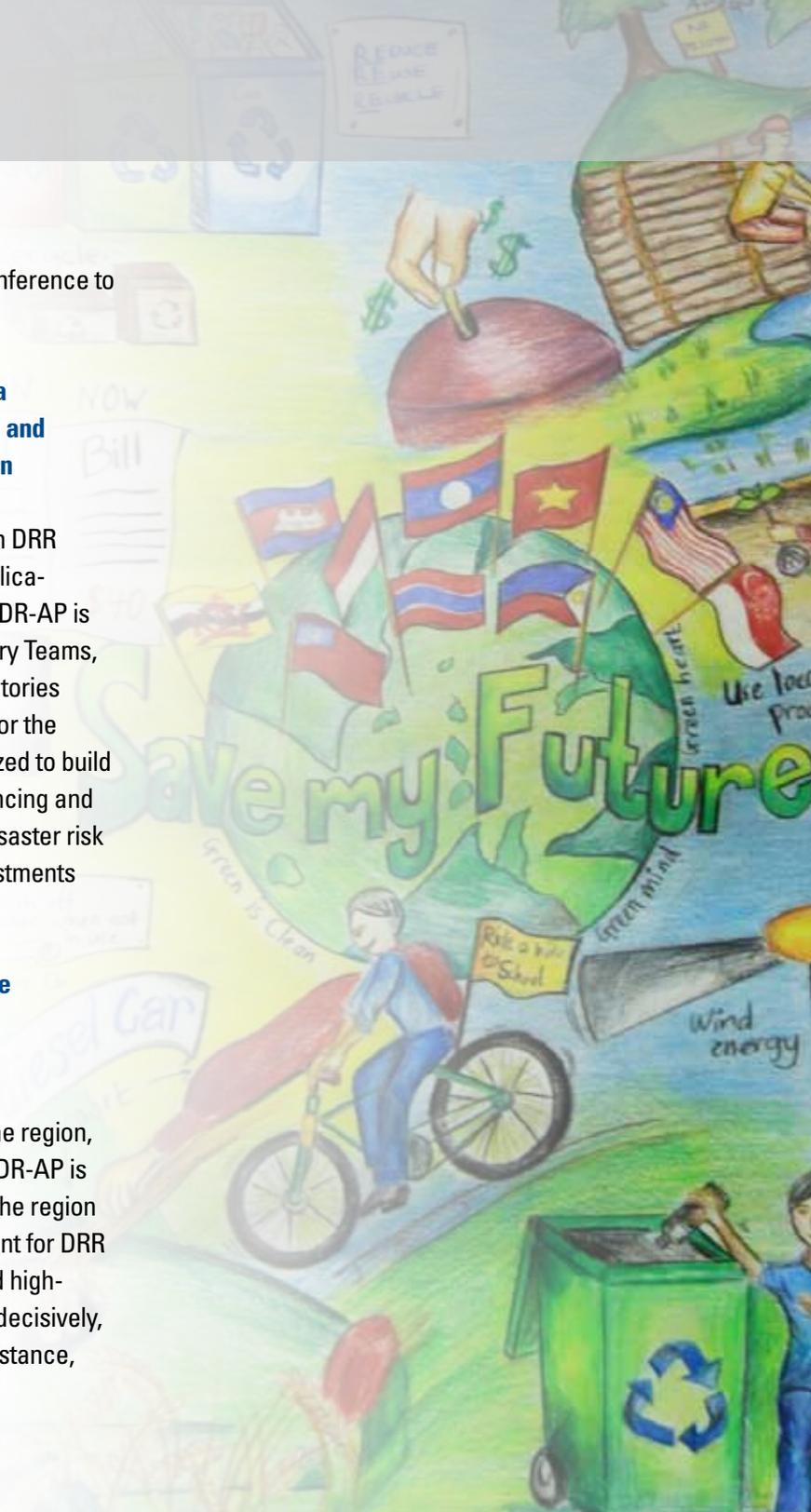
post-HFA framework that shall be agreed upon at the next Asian Ministerial Conference to be held in Indonesia in October 2012. .

2. To generate credible evidence: Improved availability of, and access to, a credible evidence base to strengthen decision making at local, national and regional levels for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

There are already 27 countries in the Asia Pacific region which are reporting on DRR progress via the online HFA Monitor. This is a positive indicator of practical applications to strategically set priorities, planning and decision-making on DRR. UNISDR-AP is ready to provide guidance on the use of the Monitor to governments, UN Country Teams, international governmental organizations and Pacific Island Countries and Territories so it becomes part of regular practice, and to also help in analyzing indicators for the MDGs. Advice and support in tracking DRR investments will likewise be prioritized to build capacities in national planning processes and a road map for disaster risk financing and insurance will be rolled out in the coming two years. A regional road map for disaster risk assessment for ASEAN will also be formulated to help governments make investments based on improved risk information.

3. To advocate and provide outreach services: Increased public and private sector investments in DRR and climate change adaptation through advocacy and outreach

With natural hazards wreaking havoc on many countries and communities in the region, public demand for outreach by the UN organization has been increasing. UNISDR-AP is in the best position towards intensifying engagement with priority countries in the region to promote DRR. The increased demand coupled with rising political commitment for DRR actions are partly due to advances in the implementation of HFA. Advocacy and high-level missions strike the message home of the urgency for governments to act decisively, as well as UNISDR-AP's readiness to provide support in terms of technical assistance,



The New Biennium: The Way Forward

resource mobilization, knowledge transfer, and networking for effective DRR. The rapport established in the region at various levels can be used to increase public and private sector investments in DRR and CCA. The Making Cities Resilient Campaign sums up how fundamental local action is, and sums up the campaigns for safe schools and hospitals. While UNISDR acts as the catalyst/advocate and coordinator in the Cities Campaign, follow-through to support key activities by the countries and the partner agencies is important. As more cities sign up to the campaign, requests for city-to-city learning and good practices will require the appropriate response.

4. To deliver and communicate results: More effective, results-oriented UNISDR to carry out its mandate

The UNISDR-AP secretariat continues to develop and use communications and knowledge management tools that allow it to effectively carry out its mandate. Thus, it shall utilize various modes like DRR media training, video conferencing and user-friendly Internet-based systems, as feedback is received from different stakeholders. Achieving all the above three objectives shall require an enlarged, sustainable and predictable resource base. Donors and partners are assured that UNISDR-AP is focused on attaining the outcomes while implementing its strategic priorities for the coming biennium.

In the next two years, 2012-2013, UNISDR-AP's work plan will essentially be based on: (1) the support needed to obtain the desired outcomes of regional and national platforms, as articulated in Ministerial Conferences and high-level meetings; (2) the recommendations based on the findings presented in assessments, benchmarking and studies such as GAR and the HFA Progress Report; (3) priorities articulated by UNISDR-AP's partners relative to the demand from the region's stakeholders; and, (4) the actions required to pursue the remaining period of HFA until 2015.

The four objectives with their corresponding means of outcome and output indicators provide the guideposts in which the next biennium's activities will unfold.

Credits and Acknowledgment

The production of this report would not have been possible without the help of our partners. We look forward to continue our work with them as we strive to make the world safer against disasters.

PHOTOS

UNISDR Staff
UN Multimedia
ASEAN-UNISDR Technical Cooperation
SOPAC
Office of Senator Loren Legarda
Takeshi Komino of Church World Services



*International Day for Disaster
Reduction Event 2011 at
Saijo Kita Junior High School in Japan*



UNISDR

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Asia Pacific