Global Platform Official Statement

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I am an assistant professor of urban and regional planning at the University of Canberra, Australia. My background is in urban and regional planning, transport planning, the evaluation of urban policy and infrastructure planning. My current research projects include; “Integrated resilience-orientated adaptation for community revitalisation – responding to catastrophe and climate change risks” which focuses on north east Japan after the earthquake and tsunami of March 2011 and the Canterbury earthquakes of 2010 and 2011 in New Zealand. As an expert in urban and regional planning, my research is aiming to identify the theoretical mismatches amongst sectors/fields that are barriers to an integrated approach to adapting the built environment to enhance resilience. I am proposing an holistic approach to the risks of disaster and strategic framework of integrated resilience-oriented adaptation which is aiming to build disaster-resilient communities. The research also aims to develop a framework and methodology of integrated assessment of resilience in the context of urban planning and policy in disaster risk management.

My research team has done interviews with stakeholders and communities in the affected areas in Japan and New Zealand. We are currently analysing the contextual factors in building resilience, focusing on:

* leadership in planning
* urban governance
* integrating disaster risk management to reinforce resilience
* establishing a monitoring system to assess progress

The outcome of the research should identify the efficient and effective approaches to reducing the risks of disasters and reinforcing resilience. We should also be able to identify the roles of government (national, regional and local), business and community in implementing those approaches. Our findings will be applicable globally and address the points discussed at the World Reconstruction Conference in 2011.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise the significance and urgent need for integrated approaches to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in urban and regional development. This approach includes capacity building, building organisational resilience, community engagement and transforming the built environment in disaster-prone areas to enhance preparedness. For this there is a need for a monitoring system that consists of targets, indicators and feedback. This point is related to the ‘integrated approaches’ and ‘enabling environment’ that are described in the April 2013 Synthesis Report: Consultations on a Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. Although there have been attempts to develop indicators of resilience in the built environment, multidimensional measures of resilience incorporating social, economic, and organisational resilience, from the viewpoint of strategic urban planning, are yet to be explored. A monitoring system that is designed to measure progress towards resilience, within an urban strategy framework, is missing.

Through my research projects, I am trying to develop a framework and methodology of integrated assessment of resilience in the context of urban planning and policy in disaster management. I would like to keep contributing to disaster risk reduction for the sake of future generations and the sustainability of the earth.