



Name of Event: [Side Event] Global Task Force on Building Codes

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Reporter: Yasuo Katsumi

Contact Details: y.katsumi@unesco.org

Organizer: Global Task Force on Building Codes

1) Outline

The session continued the challenging discussions held in the preparatory workshop, but also with GFDRR participation. It also led to the agreement in principle of the attached GTFBC Objectives and 2011-2013 Plan of Action.

2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations

- Simplify language highlighting the reasons for the importance of building codes to non-technical people and communities; including energy efficiency standards.
- Imperative to collaborate between different groups working on strategies for building codes, safer schools, safer hospitals, shelter and land tenure, etc. There is a need to develop mechanisms to address link between temporary and permanent shelter.
- Greater investment is required to better quantify the problems of non-compliance and find effective solutions for retrofitting.
- Building codes and standards for retrofits are a critical risk reduction issue, which must be tackled by everyone, in creating the early conditions for the development of compliance and of setting standards if the 2009 GP targets are to be achieved.

3) Conclusions

Building codes are a critical risk reduction issue, which must be tackled by everyone, not just technical agencies if the 2009 GP targets are to be achieved. A broader approach is needed to ensure risks are reduced through building codes. Formal codes and legislation are imperative. But to improve their effectiveness,

greater investment is required in motivational approaches; increasing awareness of the benefits as well as building capacity of self-builders, masons and also local built environment professionals. Incentives for compliance must complement the traditional approaches. More participative approaches are required for development or revision of building codes – to increase awareness, ownership and demand for codes from the people, rather than being imposed. Greater linkages must be made between the groups working on building codes, safer schools, hospitals and shelter.