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REPORT ON INDIVIDUAL EVENT

Date of event: **Your name:**

Event type (tick the box):

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Pre-session |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | High-level panel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Round Table |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Informal Plenary |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | * Special Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other |

Event name (write the name below):

SE10 Urban Risk Reduction by the ISDR Asia Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction (RTF-URR)

Number of participants -

Total: 54

(Please count or estimate this, as not all will be recorded in the list.)

Chair:

Prof. Rajib Shaw, Kyoto University, Chair of the RTF-URR

Launch message for the publication “Reducing Urban Risk in Asia, Status Report and Inventory of Initiatives”:

Mr. Salvano Briceño, Director UNISDR

Presentations by RTF-URR partners on their initiatives:

Prof. Yasuo Tanaka, Kobe University: “Plan for Professional Certificate Programme for Urban Disaster Risk Management Specialists”

Prof. Hiroyuki Kameda, Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED), Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Center (EDM): “Disaster Reduction Hyperbase (DRH) project”

Ms. Padma Karuinaratne, ADPC: “ADPC’s activities contributing to urban risk reduction”

Presentations by RTF-URR:

Ms. Yuki Matsuoka, Coordinator of the RTF-URR, UNISDR Hyogo Office: “Overview of the Asia Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction and on-going initiatives including CDRI and Localizing HFA”

Mr. Manu Gupta, SEEDS: “Thematic analysis and status report on urban risk reduction in Asia”

Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki, Vice Chair of the RTF-URR, SEEDS Asia: “Radius plus 10 projects”

Discussion “Towards ISDR Global Campaign on Urban Risk Reduction 2010-2011” was moderated by Mr. Rajib Shaw, Chair of the RTF-URR

Expectation to the Campaign was presented by Mr. Fouad Bendimerad, EMI

Chair introduced the session with a brief background on the status of the concept Urban Risk Reduction. Urban Risk Reduction is not a new concept; however it has become more eminent over the last decade. Urban risk reduction is more complex and needs another approach; the focus is now more on sustainable cities and ecosystems. The key words have changed from risks and challenges, to resilience and potentials. Urban risk reduction should be implemented at various levels, national, local government level, but also on community/ neighbor level. Especially in mega-cities, the challenges are so huge and complex.

The publication by the RTF-URR “Reducing Urban Risk in Asia, status report and inventory of initiatives” was officially launched by UNISDR Director Salvano Briceño in the event. In his message, he mentioned that Asia is the most hazards prone continent in the world. There are a number of leading experts in the Asia region and they are pioneers in the research they conduct, which will be

of big importance to other regions. The report gives useful overview of the current situation on urr in Asia and analyzed the issues of urban risk reduction along with HFA. The publication was received by participants with great appreciation.

The presentations by the RTF-URR partners highlighted various urban risk reduction (urr) related initiatives and identified some challenges, which need to be addressed through our concerted efforts.

Major initiatives being carried out under the RTF-URR were presented; (1) production of the HFA guideline for local governments 'Localizing HFA', (2) Publication 'City Profile – Climate and Disaster Resilience', (3) RADIUS plus 10, and (4) Publication 'Reducing Urban Risk in Asia, Status Report and Inventory of Initiatives'.

During the q&a session at the end of the event, several interesting challenges and issues were raised. These challenges should be focuses through the next biannual ISDR Global Campaign on Urban Risk Reduction 2010-2011.

1) Key questions or issues raised, main challenges or constraints identified (say, max 5):

If possible, record who raised these.

- 1. Urban risk reduction at local government level:** We need to consider how local governments work and what their mandates are, since central and local governments have very different working modalities; for instance central governments are much more divided in sectors than local governments.
- 2. Cooperation between levels (local, national, international) and between institutions:** How to make institutions work together? How to make NGOs and academic institutions cooperate in urban settings?
- 3. Public awareness:** Public awareness and demands is key for urban risk reduction. One central element is building codes, many places the public do not understand the importance of safe housing. "It is equally important to check the building codes and resilience of houses, as it is important check the condition of blood pressure".
- 4. Education:** There are a number of challenges in relation to education on urr. Education in this field is still new, so there are still limited pilot testing, still little involvement, difficult to find funding. The urban management education needs to be of high quality. The urban management education and certification needs to be mainstreamed. Challenges on compilation of databases. Lack of knowledge and technology. Information made needs to be in local languages.
- 5. Vulnerable groups:** Need for more focus on gender, children, poor, elder people and disabled.
- 6. Preparedness in urban context in particular in mega-cities is huge which requires a lot of technical demands.**

2) Principal proposed solutions, messages or recommendations:

If possible, record who offered these.

- 1. Urban risk reduction activities at local government level needs to be scaled up:** The RTF-URR is producing a guideline called 'Localizing HFA' for local governments on how to implement HFA. This would be a useful tool which will require training opportunities. At the same time, local governments with their ownership should develop urban risk reduction programs and solutions. Capacity building of local governments is necessary.
- 2. Cooperation among regional urr platforms:** Development of urr platforms in other regions like the RTF-URR in Asia is important to create enabling society. All the urr thematic platforms should collaborate each other. One outcome of the biannual campaign is hopefully increased concerted efforts crossing regions.

3. **Public awareness in particular on building codes is the key in the URR Campaign. So that people will check when they will buy houses and schools and hospitals to which their families are going.**
4. **Education:** The presented initiatives by RTF-URR members (DRR certificate programme and DRH project serve as useful tools.
5. **Vulnerable groups including urban poor needs to be considered.**

General recommendations:

- **Balance between natural and build environment**
- **Find ways to generate resources**
- **Linking sustainable development and sustainable living with urr.**

3) Conclusions by the Chair of the event:

The urban risk issues go beyond the administrative boundaries of the cities, and should focus on larger ecosystems to address the risk reduction issues.

URR needs to focus on urban poor, vulnerable groups

URR Task Force is committed to URR safety Campaign (2010-2011) with policy advocacy, tools, guideline development and undertaking pilot projects.

How to bring community base approach in urban setting is crucial.

Preparedness and empowerment of stakeholders in urban areas are the key

Need to consider social and political context of urban settings

Tools, technology and methodologies are crucial and needed. In addition, utilizing them by local authorities need capacity building, as urr goes beyond technology.

Important to have interaction between local and central governments to improve urr.

It is also essential to have a participatory approach, how to include small communities, informal projects and businesses. In many countries the informal processes take over the weak formal processes for development.

Another important aspect is to take cultural and social considerations for urr.

4) Your additional thoughts on the event:

(E.g. on tone and success of event, unresolved issues, commitments made by participants, etc.)

The presentations on practical tools and initiatives by RTF-URR members are very useful. The usefulness of having the RTF-URR as the thematic platform on urr in Asia has been strongly recognized. The progress for the last 1.5 year since its establishment is significant.

Various expectations towards the next Global Campaign on urr were expressed in the event. RTF-URR should play a leading role in Asia to drive the Campaign through continuous collaboration with partners.