Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
Second Session, Geneva, Switzerland
16 – 19 June 2009

REPORT ON INDIVIDUAL EVENT

Date of event: | 16 June 2009 | **Your name:** | Takashi IMAMURA |

Event type (tick the box):

		Event name (write the name below):
	Pre-session	
	High-level panel	
	Round Table	
	Informal Plenary	
x	**Special Event**	Safer Building Codes and Construction: A Strategy for Enforcement, Implementation and Dissemination
	Other	

Number of participants - **Total:** 60
(Please count or estimate this, as not all will be recorded in the list.)
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1) Key questions or issues raised, main challenges or constraints identified (say, max 5):
If possible, record who raised these.

1. Building codes are usually so complicated and scientific that users do not understand them easily. How is the current state of implementation of building codes? We need to provide policymakers "tools" to create and implement codes of practice.

2. Inspection on the construction site is also essential to properly enforce building codes. What is the requirement of inspection strategies for safer construction?

3. There remains many vulnerable buildings exist in the world, including critical facilities such as schools and hospitals. How could we reduce existing vulnerable buildings? Is there any difference between "new-build/ build-back-safer" and "retrofit" when addressing the implementation of building codes?

4. Due building codes become ineffective without a maintenance programmes. For example, the level of intensity of natural hazards may be increased due to global climate change. How could we maintain building codes appropriately?

5. Do we encounter corruption? How is corruption affecting the safety of buildings? How is corruption manifesting itself?

2) Principal proposed solutions, messages or recommendations:
If possible, record who offered these.

1. It is important to develop appropriate building codes which could be implemented in a simple and user-friendly manner, but keeping the minimum disaster resilient perspectives. It is necessary to provide policymakers "tools" to create and implement codes of practice.

2. It is most critical to promote retrofitting of existing vulnerable buildings, especially critical facilities such as schools and hospitals, by urging decision-makers for their commitments and by raising communities' awareness.

3. It is essential to continuously revise and improve building codes over time, as additional risks are identified including the effect of global climate change.

3) Conclusions by the Chair of the event:
Although building codes are developed reflecting domestic situations and also tend to be very technical, international collaboration, such as sharing best practices and principals of safer buildings, should facilitate the awareness-raising of policymakers and communities in order to enforce, implement and disseminate building codes effectively and promote retrofitting of existing vulnerable buildings. It has been confirmed from the session that the existing Task Force initiated by the UNCRD and UNESCO to address potential coding strategies should be developed and adopted as part of an action plan deriving from this Global Platform meeting.

4) Your additional thoughts on the event:
(E.g. on tone and success of event, unresolved issues, commitments made by participants, etc.)