

**Second India Disaster Management Congress**  
Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, 4-6 November 2009

**Thematic Session on**

**Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction:  
International Experience and Best Practices**

CONCEPT NOTE

**Contexts**

Despite all the efforts made at the global, national and local levels for the past two decades, natural disasters are on the rise and there is every indication that disasters would continue to rise due to the increasing exposure of vulnerable population and assets to the risks of disasters. The impacts of climate change and rapid urbanization, particularly in the developing countries, would be compounding the frequency and intensity of disasters.

Although average loss of life and injuries in disasters has reduced over the years, the mega disasters have been recurring at regular intervals with large scale damage of life and property.

Recovering from the disasters and reconstructing the lives of households, communities, cities and villages that involve multiple sectors - housing, infrastructure, livelihood, health, education, environment etc - have been one of the daunting tasks of sustainable development.

Wealth of experiences – good and bad – are available from the reconstruction efforts after many disasters around the world. There is a need to document and learn from these experiences, develop tools and methodologies for pre-disaster recovery planning and upgrade the knowledge and skill of all those stakeholders who would be involved in the assessment of damage and loss after disasters, planning of recovery and reconstruction and implementation of the plans in their different phases.

The Thematic Session on *Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction: International Experiences and Best Practices* would bring together resource persons from around the world to present their experiences and discuss various issues of recovery and reconstruction.

**Objectives**

The objectives of the session would be to

- a) Discuss the conceptual framework of designing a comprehensive reconstruction and recovery programme
- b) Understand the rationale for conducting a comprehensive damage and loss assessment following a disaster in order to lay the foundation for reconstruction and recovery planning
- c) Present the experiences of post-disaster reconstruction and recovery from the United States, Japan, Iran, Turkey, Indonesia, China, Pakistan and India

- d) Share the lessons of reconstruction and recovery across sectors such as housing, transportation networks, livelihood support, health and education programmes, environmental considerations etc
- e) Explore the options of long term risk management such as pre-disaster recovery planning, risk transfer, catastrophic risk financing etc.

### **Expected Outcome**

The Thematic Session would facilitate better understanding of the issues of post-disaster recovery and reconstruction. The proceedings of the Session shall be published and shall be taken as the basis for development of post-disaster recovery and reconstruction framework in the context of India and South Asia.

### **Session Plan**

Date: 4 November

Duration: 3 hours

**Session Chair: Mr. Jack Stein, Director South Asia Sustainable Development, the World Bank, Washington**

**Co-Chair: Mr. V. Suresh, Former CMD, Housing and Urban development Corporation, India**

**Opening Remarks: Ms. Margareta Wahlstorm, Special Envoy of Secretary General of the United Nations on Disaster Reduction**

**PRESENTATIONS** (10 minutes each)

- a) **Sustainable Recovery and Reconstruction Framework**  
Mr. Christoph Pusch, the World Bank.

This presentation would give an overview of the global experience in the formulation of successful post-disaster reconstruction and recovery frameworks. Aspects to be discussed include: important elements of reconstruction and recovery, the transition from relief to early recovery planning, options for institutional arrangements, and the role of a comprehensive damage and loss assessment to inform the strategy.

- b) **Rebuilding Kobe – Experiences from Japan**

The experience gained in rebuilding Kobe after the devastating earthquake of 1995 shall be presented. The policy, planning and strategies followed for the massive reconstruction programme and the experiences gained during implementation shall be described. The lessons learnt shall be reviewed for the development of a comprehensive framework of recovery and reconstruction.

- c) **Earthquake Reconstruction in Latur, India**  
Dr. Krishan Vatsa, UNDP, India

A moderate 6.3 earthquake in Latur, India had killed more than ten thousand people in 1993. The reconstruction experiences of Latur significantly influenced the development of disaster

management policies and practices in India. The rich experiences gained, particularly for reconstruction of houses shall be presented.

**d) From Reconstruction to Mitigation – Turkey**

Salih Erdurmus, senior civil engineer of ISMEP team, Turkey

This presentation would review the experiences of the relief and reconstruction programs implemented to address the impacts of the Marmara earthquake in Turkey. Key issues that to be discussed would include the Government of Turkey's overall reconstruction strategy, including the main challenges and institutional structure; the lessons learned from the recovery program; and, how the Government transitioned from reconstruction and recovery toward proactive risk mitigation.

**e) Reconstruction experiences after Gujarat earthquake**

Mr. Ranjan Bannerjee

Chief Executive Officer, Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority

Gujarat has reconstructed the towns and villages devastated by the earthquake of 2001. The experiences gained in building back better with participation of the affected communities are often cited as a good practice. The lessons learned from this good practice shall be presented.

**f) Reconstruction experiences of post- Tsunami Aceh**

Mr. Kedar Verma

World Bank Institute, Washington DC

The Indonesian province of Aceh was suffering from ethnic conflicts for years. The Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 2004 added to the sufferings of the people beyond description. The massive reconstruction that followed with liberal assistance from the UN system and the World Bank facilitated recovery and rebuilding of the damaged infrastructure and ruptured communities. The reconstruction programme has brought the communities together and nearly the age old ethnic conflicts. Experiences gained in this process shall be presented.

**g) Reconstruction Experience in Tamil Nadu India after Indian Ocean Tsunami**

Mr. C.V.Shanker

Project Manager, National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project, New Delhi

Indian Ocean Tsunami devastated large coastal areas of several Indian States. The State of Tamil Nadu in South India was the worst affected. Reconstruction and recovery works in Tamil Nadu were very highly rated. The lessons learnt from these experiences shall be presented in the session

**h) Reconstruction experiences after Pakistan earthquake**

General Sajjad Akram

Deputy Chairman, Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority, Pakistan

The earthquake of Pakistan in 2005 has brought about a complete paradigm shift in the approach and framework of disaster management in the country. The experiences gained in the quick assessment of damage and losses over a large and scattered areas, development of comprehensive strategy for reconstruction and the ongoing process of the implementation of the reconstruction programmes shall be presented.

**i) Towards the development of a Comprehensive Framework of Recovery and Reconstruction in South Asia**

P.G.Dhar Chakrabarti

Director, SAARC Disaster Management Centre, New Delhi

A draft framework and a road map for the development of a Comprehensive Framework of Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction in South Asia shall be presented for further discussion in this Session and subsequently in various forums at national and regional levels in South Asia.