

## Concept Note for Trilateral Expert Meeting on Disaster Loss Data and DRR Technology Sharing 26-28 March 2014, Jeju, Republic of Korea

### Introduction

National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Korea, Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) will convene a three day workshop on disaster loss data and DRR technology sharing from 26 to 28 March 2014 in Jeju, Republic of Korea. This workshop will bring together experts from disaster management organizations, research institutes, and academia in China, Japan, Republic of Korea and other countries.

The purposes of the workshop are

- i) to provoke dialogue among disaster risk reduction (DRR) experts on disaster loss data and DRR technology;
- ii) to discuss preliminary results of case studies, data acquisition, and further requirements and recommendations for harmonizing disaster data among Northeast Asia countries, extending to the Asia and the Pacific countries later; and
- iii) to support the follow up activities of the third 3rd Tri-lateral Heads of Government Agency Meeting on Disaster Management held in Seoul, Republic of Korea in October, 2013 and an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) held in Sendai, Japan on 30 September and 1 October 2013.

The meeting will be held in Ramada Plaza Hotel, Jeju Province, Republic of Korea from 26 to 28 March 2014.

### Background

As the international community is transitioning to HFA-2 and Post-2015 development agenda, a more definite and operational concept of resilience is urgently needed. In this context, timely and reliable data and statistics are critical to disasters risk management and building long-term resilience through evidence-based policy making. As regional countries are facing common challenges, the benefits of collaborative efforts among countries for disaster risk reduction are abounding. Recognizing the need for intergovernmental cooperation, China, Japan, and Korea have issued a Tri-lateral Joint Declaration on Disaster Management Cooperation.

The Heads of disaster management from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea met on Oct. 2013 in the Republic of Korea and agreed to boost regional cooperation in the key areas of technology, information management and training programmes. The three countries agreed on the following issues:

1. Exploring better compatibility of information on hazard profiles, disaster losses and disaster recovery,
2. Initiating joint research and development projects to identify intensive risk so that approaches to disaster response and recovery are better informed,
3. Sharing practical lessons on addressing underlying risk factors and increasing disaster risk due to climate change,
4. Designing regular Table Top Exercises to help the countries prepare for hazards such as earthquake and typhoon,

5. Strengthening partnership with regional and global education and training institutes in the three countries as part of efforts to develop joint disaster management programmes for government officials, and
6. Cooperating ahead the Asia Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangkok, Thailand, in June 2014 as well as the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015.

As one of the follow up activities of the tri-lateral agreement, DRR expert meeting will be jointly convened by NEMA Korea, UNESCAP SRSO, TCS and UNISDR ONEA-GETI. Through the workshop, participants will identify opportunities of exploring better compatibility of information on hazard profiles, disaster loss database along with joint research programmes among China, Japan and Republic of Korea.

The importance of establishing compatible disaster loss database in order to confront the formidable challenges in the implementation of HFA in Asia Pacific was also emphasized at the 1<sup>st</sup> Expert Group Meeting (EGM) held in Sendai, Japan on 30 September and 1 October 2013. Through the meeting, participants sharpened the focus of evidence-based resilience by identifying the basic principles for disaster data and statistics. The EGM proposed an action plan in developing a core set of disaster statistics with the appropriate domain and themes containing the comprehensive categories of statistics to guide informed policy decisions on risk sensitive investment. The EGM also recognized the need for further pilot studies in improving disaster data at the national level, in order to grasp a comprehensive picture of the collection and dissemination of disaster data at the national level, and also to understand the capacity of the national statistical system, which will define a need-based regional framework on disaster risk reduction. The recommendations from the EGM were deliberated at the third Session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, 27-29 November 2013, which then recommended the secretariat to monitor and track resilience in close collaboration with the Committee on Statistics.

### Expected outcome

Expected outcomes of the workshop include:

- Draft Work plan for exploring better compatibility of information on hazard profiles, disaster losses and disaster recovery;
- Strategy for harmonizing disaster data and data acquisition among Northeast Asia countries, and extending to the Asia and the Pacific countries later;
- Strategy for strengthening partnership with regional and global education and training institutes in the three countries; and
- Strategy for sharing DRR technology and information among Asia and the Pacific countries

### Participants

The workshop is expected to be attended by high and mid-level government officials and researchers among China, Japan and Republic of Korea and other stakeholders from UN agencies, regional institutions. A number of high level experts, scholars and policymakers from Asia and Europe will be invited to make presentations and serve as panelists relating to the main and sub themes of the workshop.

### Partnership

The workshop will be held in partnership with Jeju Self-Governing Provincial Government, Incheon Metropolitan City Government, Yonsei University, Jeju National University and Dongguk University.

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