

## Organization Statements

### In the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Americas

- **Organization Name : Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**
- **Theme : Recommendation for post-Hyogo Framework for Action**

After the Sumatra Earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami occurred on December 26, 2004 and following launching of Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan, the needs for disaster countermeasures (including both structure and non structure) are rapidly increasing, JICA have experienced not a few programs/projects related to the disaster countermeasures in the developing countries based on their needs.

Furthermore, the international communities are getting interests in disaster reduction, especially in the wake of the recent serious disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina(2005), Haiti Earthquake(2010), Thailand Flood(2011), Great East Japan Earthquake(2011), and etc.

We have started to use “Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction(DRR)” among the international community getting engaged in disaster prevention from 1990’s, there is no clear definition but the followings are commonly-regarded as the meanings;

- The Government make DRR policy priority
- DRR perspectives are reflected in all development policies and plans
- DRR investment is increasing

The followings are some of the recommendations toward the post-HFA based on the JICA’s experiences with consideration of the international trend such as Mainstreaming DRR.

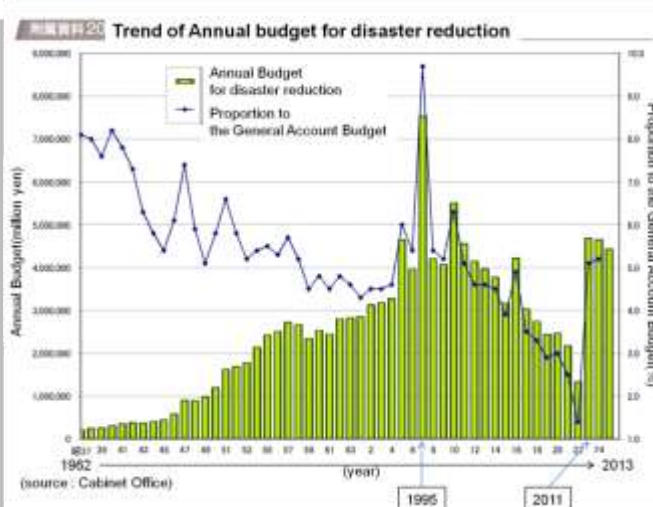
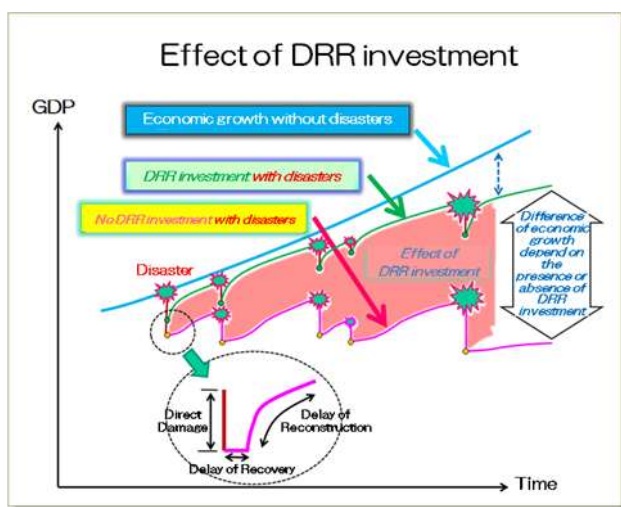
#### **1. Promotion of DRR investment by the Government**

After the Indian Ocean Tsunami, many projects related to forecast and warning, community based disaster management are implemented, because we understand we couldn’t prevent damage by the serious disasters only by the structural measures. Those projects cost lower compared with the structural measures, need little land purchase, raise little opposition from the local residents, and affect people and communities directly. Generally, the forecast and warning project and the community based disaster management project causes a decrease in a death toll(at least people can live), but little effect for a decrease in economic loss. Usually in the developing countries, the most poor class live in disaster prone areas, such as riverside areas, landslide prone areas, and etc. They can escape by the forecast and warning, but they lost properties. So they can’t get away from negative chain between “disaster” and “poverty”. The base of development is not only saving the people’s live but also decreasing the economic loss by reducing the risks and tackling

with the structural measures even though cost budget, this means the best mix approach both structural and non structural measures are needed.

Why the Government doesn't allocate the budget to DRR, especially prior investment? Some of the answers are it is difficult to set up indicators of DRR target and effect (different from school enrollment ratio and literacy rate, etc.) and to show how contribute to the sustainable development in the country, the Government relatively easy to allocate the budget from humanitarian aspect (emergency relief and rehabilitation), but difficult to apply for DRR for sustainable development. DRR investment is not "cost" which doesn't expect return, but necessary "asset" which contributes to the social and economic development (See the lower left drawing, which indicates "the Effect of DRR investment" from the viewpoint of the difference depend on the presence or absence of DRR investment).

Actually in the case of Japan, the 1960's, more than 50 years ago, when the GDP per capita was less than 2,000 US dollar, even so, the budget for disaster reduction (such as disaster prevention, national conservation, science technology and recovery and rehabilitation) was between 5 % to 8 % the proportion to the General Account Budget. Japan continues to allocate DRR investment not only the period the serious disaster occurred but also normal situation (See the lower right charts).



The present Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) don't include any reference to disasters, but many developing countries severely damaged by disasters which are obstacles to achieve MDGs in a reality. From this sense, DRR considerations are essential perspective in the post-2015 framework.

## 2. Strengthening of Disaster Risk Assessment

The importance of risk assessment is including in priorities for Action 2 of the HFA. Also, one of the pillars in "Mainstreaming DRR" is the DRR perspectives are reflected in all development policies and plans as mentioned before. Based on those trends, JICA is ahead of trying to input the Disaster Risk (or Impact) Assessment to all projects (not only the project

on urban planning, infrastructure which supposed to be considered disaster risk already but also “all” projects) before the project implementation.



*Japan's "Bousai Hakusho"*

On the disaster risk assessment, information and data based on the reliable hazard and risk analysis are very important, in addition, the disaster statistics including the small-scale disasters, for example, the death toll is less than 10, or affected people is less than 100, which isn't recorded by EM-DAT, is not negligible. Because those small-scale disasters in great frequency, are very important source for disaster risk assessment.

In Japan, the streamline of disaster statistics regulated by “Disaster Countermeasure Basic Act” and related decree, for the disaster statistic are identified as the base of policy development. The local governments are obliged to report the disaster data and the Cabinet Office publish “Bosai Hakusho (white paper)” every year which is stated in the above Act.

### **3. “Build Back Better” into the reconstruction stage**

Build Back Better means “Reconstruction must take account of future hazards and risks.” That means the reconstruction is not return to its original, but make toward the resilient society and community. Also when the reconstruction stage, promote the DRR investment guided by the Government.

As mentioned in the above 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, JICA eagerly recommend the DRR investment before the disasters, but it may be very difficult because of the limited budget in a reality. The Government is hard to gain the public's understanding for the prior investment for disaster reduction on unidentifiable disasters occurred in the future, tend to put priority immediate needs of economic and social infrastructures. The clear policy for building the disaster resilient society in the reconstruction stage after the disasters is necessary at least, all the more for the difficulty of the prior investment.

For the reference, after the serious disaster of Typhoon Yolanda occurred in November, 2013, the Philippine Government made the Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda(RAY), which is the Government strategic plan to guide the recovery and reconstruction of the economy, lives, and livelihoods in the affected areas, includes the concept of “Build Back Better” clearly based on the suggestion from the Japanese Government.

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*“Build Back Better” have been written in the cover page of “Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda(RAY)”*

