



International Recovery Platform

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IRP Regional Workshop held in Yogyakarta, 3-5 November 2009

The International Recovery Platform (IRP), the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), and the Department of Architecture and Planning of Gadjah Mada University (DAP/UGM) organized the IRP Regional Workshop “Action by Stakeholders for Effective Management of Post-Disaster Recovery” from 3-5 November 2009 at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The ASEAN Secretariat and the National Disaster Management Agency of Indonesia (BNPB) also co-organized the event.

The Workshop was aimed at disseminating recovery lessons drawn from the Yogyakarta 2006 earthquake to help enhance recovery operations across Southeast Asia. Around 200 participants comprising policymakers, practitioners, and academics from ASEAN region and Japan attended the workshop. The workshop facilitated the identification of constraints and gaps in recovery operations and explored specific measures to address them in a more collaborative approach.



Photo taken at Gadjah Mada University during the first day of the workshop, 4th November

On 3rd November, a field trip to three selected villages (Kotagede, Imogiri, and Kasongan) was arranged for representatives of ASEAN countries and resource speakers. The three villages highlighted lessons on livelihood recovery following the Yogyakarta earthquake of 2006. In the evening, a welcome reception was organized at the Phoenix Hotel Ballroom.

The first day of the workshop was held on 4th November (Wednesday). High ranking individuals from UGM, ADRC, ASEAN Secretariat, and Ministry of Public Works of Indonesia delivered inspiring inauguration speeches. The keynote speech was delivered by Professor Dr. Ir. Danang Parikesit of UGM highlighting the emerging regional frameworks for recovery operations as well as lessons and experiences drawn from Yogyakarta. Technical presentations concerning disaster reduction and recovery were presented by Dr. German Velasquez (UNISDR) and Mr. Ahmad Zaki Fahmi (WB). The session was followed by Ms. Adelina Kamal, who presented the vision of the ASEAN Post-Disaster Recovery. The afternoon sessions covered reports from BNPB, local government, NGOs, and academic institutions concerning the recovery status from Yogyakarta Earthquake of 2006. This particular session highlighted the *collaborative study* conducted by IRP Secretariat, ADRC, and Gadjah Mada University. In the succeeding session, country presentations from the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam provided the opportunity to compare recovery lessons and experiences. Wrap up of the first day session was provided by Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia of IRP Secretariat.

On the second day of the workshop, parallel thematic sessions on shelter, livelihood, environment, governance, and gender were held. Sessions chairs were Dr. Yoyok Wahyu Subroto, Dr. Laretna T. Adishakti, Dr. Marqueza Lepana Reyes, Mr. Gerald Potutan, and Dr. Siti Hariti Sastriyani respectively. In the presentation of thematic outputs, the following actions for “Effective Management of Post-Disaster Recovery” were suggested.

Shelter: One of the areas of importance to effective risk reduction and recovery lies in the provision of safe, structurally secure shelter, which is closely related to the sustainability issues of the type of construction. It is important that the provision of shelters be of a sustainable nature, with the aim to ensure increased permanency of the dwellings. Community empowerment program in terms of non-physical aspect is necessary to be developed in any condition, both before and after a disaster.

Livelihood: Livelihood approaches in post-disaster recovery put people and their priorities at the center of development. The decision to provide food, cash, a combination, or something else entirely should be based on an objective problem analysis. Capacity building for livelihood recovery is a must, especially in the case of traditional crafts.

Environment: In considering environment in post-disaster recovery operations, public education and awareness is the key to understanding environmental issues and increasing perceptions of risk by the people. Social acceptability (i.e. local people and communities decide on the kind of risk reduction and recovery projects as well as on the continuity and sustainability of the projects) must be ensured. Technical approach must be combined with a social approach to have a holistic understanding of environmental issues that can be used

as a basis for more effective recovery and risk reduction measures. Collaboration of the academe with local stakeholders is crucial in translating scientific and technical know-how into techniques and tools that the community can easily understand and use. Using indigenous knowledge of the local community is also a key to making technical knowledge locally owned.

Governance: Governance could be one of the tools for decision-makers and community leaders. For long-term recovery operations, it is particularly important to advocate for “good governance” at the local government level. As the immediate public service provider and the interface with citizens, local governments are naturally situated in the best position to raise awareness of the citizens on resilient recovery and listen to their concerns. Recovery operations may fail, if the communities are not properly informed and engaged. It is important to determine the conditions, wherein strategies and frameworks work and do not work in order to effectively manage recovery operations. Proactive recovery planning must likewise be advocated at the local levels.

Gender: Gender shapes the disaster experience and the ability to recover. It explains why certain groups of people are at greater risk or why some others recover at a slower pace. Gender mainstreaming is a key strategy to reduce inequalities among gender groups. Mainstreaming gender into disaster management strengthens the resilience of entire communities, cuts recovery time, and leads to more efficient recovery and reconstruction. It can be achieved by taking into account the needs, concerns and capacities of gender groups in planning and implementing disaster reduction and risk recovery activities.

A panel discussion dealing with the gaps in recovery operations in ASEAN countries took place in the afternoon. It was chaired by Dr. Iwan Gunawan (WB) with all thematic session chairs acting as panelists and Mr. Atsushi Koresawa (ADRC) served as commentator. Voices from the community were also heard in the panel discussion. Following the panel discussion was the reading of the “Call for Action” by Mr. Koresawa. The workshop was formally closed after votes of thanks were delivered by Mr. Yoshihiro Imai (IRP Secretariat) and Dr. Diananta Pramitasari (UGM).

The Workshop concluded with a clear and simple message. Recovery phase may offer an opportunity to further reduce risk and make communities more resilient to future disasters if necessary measures are incorporated into post-recovery operations. In Southeast Asia, solutions exist. The challenge is to put these solutions into action through collaborative working.