

HELP Expert Meeting –Investment and Financing for Sustainable Development of Disaster Risk Reduction in the Post-Corona era

on the occasion of

the International Conference on Sustainable, Resilient Cities and Transport, Aichi 2021

Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Time: 14:30-16:30 (JST, GMT+9:00)

Meeting Venue: Hybrid (Online / in person in Aichi Sky Expo, Japan)

Organizers: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan / High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP)

Session Summary

Water is essential for sustaining human life, human security, the environment and the economy, and is at the core of sustainable development. Water is also closely associated with many important global challenges such as climate change, food, resource and energy supply, and conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity. In recent years, the economic and human destruction caused by disasters has been increasing worldwide, and water disasters account for more than 80% of the disasters that cause enormous damage. As a result, reducing the risk of water disasters is an essential element for the development of a more resilient, sustainable and fair society. Significant reduction of fatalities and economic losses from water-related disasters is positioned as the target of Goal 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, meeting the challenges associated with water-related disasters is considered one of the global issues in order to realize a sustainable and resilient city.

High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) is composed of leaders from national governments and international organizations, and makes various proposals with an aim to strengthen global efforts to deal with and raise awareness toward water-related disasters around the world. In 2019, HELP announced the "Principles on Investment and Financing for Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction" that encourages advance investment in disaster prevention and efforts to intensify preventive measures to disaster prevention. In 2021, in response to the pandemic of COVID-19, HELP has been actively engaged in activities such as publishing "Guiding Principles to Build Resilient Post-Corona World".

In Japan, the Isewan Typhoon, which caused enormous damage in 1959 from the Kii Peninsula to the Tokai region, with more than 5,000 people dead and missing, led to intensive and systematic hydraulic control measures which achieved a significant reduction in the number of deaths due to floods and storm surges. Although severe water disasters due to the effects of climate change have occurred frequently in recent years, professionals and policy makers in Japan are in the process of switching to "River Basin Disaster Resilience and Sustainability by All," a new flood management policy to calls for all stakeholders in river basins to take actions for disaster resilience and sustainability. The measures under the new policy include land use regulation based on disaster risk maps and the development of transportation network for smooth evacuation. The Japanese government will proceed with integrated disaster prevention measures together with transportation and city planning.

In developing countries, the chain of poverty has become an issue, such as the poor have to reside in flood prone areas and lose their assets each time a disaster strikes. In order to break this chain, it is urgent to take fundamental disaster prevention measures with adequate budget. It is also important to avoid catastrophic damages caused by large scale disasters with low frequency by promoting 'mainstreaming disaster risk reduction' in all sectors such as land use regulation in city planning.

In this session, we will introduce disaster prevention investment efforts made by a variety of countries and institutions within the range of HELP's activities, as well as share knowledge about disaster prevention investment in promoting sustainable development and measures to develop resilient cities and transport in the post-corona world.

Tentative Program

Moderator: Mr. Akihiro Shimasaki, Director for International Coordination of River Engineering, Water and Disaster Management Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan

Opening Remarks

Mr. Mikio Yoshioka, Vice-Minister for Engineering Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan

Keynote Speech / Video Message (5 min for each)

- Dr. Han Seung-Soo, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea and Chair of the High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP)
- H.E. Dr. Basuki Hadimuljono, Minister for Public Works and Housing, Indonesia
- Mr. Bambang Susantono, Vice President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank
- Mr. Ricardo Mena Director, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- Mr. Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner, Crisis Management, European Union (tbc)
- Dr. Tetsushi Sonobe, Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)
- Prof. Kenzo Hiroki, Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS); Coordinator, HELP

Panel Discussion

Introductory Presentation by Moderator

- Mr. Akihiro Shimasaki, Director for International Coordination of River Engineering, Water and Disaster Management Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan

Presentations by panelist (5-10 min for each)

- Mr. Kozo Nagami, Deputy Director General, Global Environment Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Mr. Nestor Alfonso Santamaria, Policy Advice & Research, OECD - High Level Risk Forum, Directorate of Public Governance (GOV), The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Ms. Neeta Pokhrel, Chief of Water Sector Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change (SDCC) Department, Asian Development Bank
- Representative of Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (tbc)

Discussion (15 min) and/or Comments from HELP members/advisors

Q & A Session

Closing Remarks: Prof. Kenzo Hiroki

Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS); Coordinator, HELP