



United Nations  
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

**APEC-WW and IG-WRDRR Joint Workshop**  
**“Wind-Related DRR Activities in Asia and Pacific Region and Cooperative Action”**

24 October 2010, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Speech by  
United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction  
(UNISDR)

Director, **Sálvano Briceño**

to be delivered by Yuki Matsuoka, Head of the UNISDR Office in Kobe

Good morning, distinguished speakers, ladies and gentlemen.

Today it is my great pleasure to deliver the speech on behalf of Mr. Salvano Briceño, Director of the United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction –UNISDR, as he is unable to come to Incheon due to other commitments.

First of all, I would like to start by thanking Prof. Yukio Tamura from the Tokyo Polytechnic University, who serves as the Chair of the International Group on Wind-Related Disaster Risk Reduction for leading the organization of this Joint Workshop on “Wind-related Disaster Risk Reduction Activities in Asia-Pacific Region and Cooperative Activities”.

Disaster risk concerns every person, every community and every nation. Climate change is expected to aggravate existing human and social vulnerabilities, increasing drought, flood and storm risk. Without taking into consideration the urgent need to reduce risk and vulnerability to natural hazards, the world simply cannot hope to move forward in its quest for reducing poverty and ensuring a sustainable development.

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) was launched in 2000 aims at building disaster resilience of nations and communities by promoting increased awareness of the importance of disaster risk reduction as an integral component of sustainable development, with the goal of reducing human, social, economic and environmental losses due to natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters.

As many of you know, the Hyogo Framework Action adopted at the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe in January 2005, represents comprehensive action-oriented policy guidance for universal understanding of disasters induced by vulnerability to natural hazards and reflects a solid commitment to implement an effective disaster reduction agenda by underlining five priorities for action.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the Hyogo Framework, the ISDR system partners are working together at global, regional and national levels. Within the ISDR system, we have several thematic groups and platforms focusing on specific disaster risk reduction issues, such as disaster risk reduction and education, environment,

capacity development, recovery, early warning, as well as on specific hazards such as landslides, wildland fires, and floods.

As one of the thematic initiatives, the International Group for Wind-Related Disaster Risk Reduction was formally launched during the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in June 2009.

On behalf of the UNISDR, I would like express our hearty appreciation to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Group for leading this important group, and to the members of the Group for their participation and contribution.

Organizing the International Forum on Tornado Disaster Risk Reduction for Bangladesh in Dhaka in December 2009 was the first activity of the Group. The Forum led to follow-up activities in support of the Government of Bangladesh to assist in developing policies and planning to reduce win-related disaster risks.

The group also developed a brochure for preparedness for wind-related hazards in Haiti to raise awareness of Haitians about the possibility of wind related hazard and provide them with basic guidelines for mitigation measures, both in English and French languages. These useful brochures have been handed over by UNISDR to the Government of Haiti as well.

I also would like to appreciate the recent submission of substantive inputs on wind related disaster risk reduction from the Group to the process for the development of the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2011. The Global Assessment Report 2011 is currently being coordinated by UNISDR and planned to be launched next spring before the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva 8-13 May 2011.

The Group will organize a pre-conference event on climate change and wind-related disaster risk reduction tomorrow in the context of the 4<sup>th</sup> Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction starting from Tuesday here in Incheon.

I have no doubt that a number of initiatives under the International Group for Wind-related disaster risk reduction are contributing to understand wind-related disaster risks among various stakeholders and to raise awareness on these risks requiring immediate actions.

The UNISDR would like to take this opportunity to reiterate its support for the work of the Group, and look forward to hearing the discussions and results regarding cooperative actions geared within the Joint Workshop to reduce the impact of wind-related disasters.

Thank you very much.

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