

**Asia-Pacific Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction  
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Ms. Chair, ladies and gentlemen, it is great honor for me to participate in today's meeting.

In my statement, I will focus on measures for strengthening national disaster risk reduction (DRR) capacities by COVID-19 recovery and by the Mid Term Review (MTR) of the Sendai Framework. I have three points.

The first point is the development of high quality DRR strategies. Countries are bound to take major fiscal actions to boost economic recovery from the pandemic. Moreover, developing countries shall receive substantial amount of adaptation funds in light of the outcomes of COP26. While it is important to see *how much* money may be allotted to DRR, but what is more important is *how effectively* we can use it. To make this happen, national and local DRR strategies, as outlined in the Target E of the Sendai Framework, should be of high quality. There is an urgent need for all national disaster management organizations to develop high quality DRR strategies so that risk reducing investments will be guided with priorities.

The second point is the quality-check of a country's DRR measures through the Mid Term Review. The seven global targets of the Sendai Framework are not enough to assess the achievement of various measures. Countries should assess the quality of their DRR strategies, the progress in human resources development, and inclusiveness of all sectors and stakeholders. And aid agencies need to assess if their aid policy is effective enough to improve the quality of DRR measures in the recipient countries. For example, 'the 8 Steps' proposed by JICA is an effective tool to improve the quality of DRR strategies. Japan also supports the activities of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center, such as information sharing and training among the Asian countries.

The third point is promotion of 'Building Back Better'. Climate change will exacerbate the frequency and intensity of climate disasters. This means that more and more areas will be affected by disasters. It is a sad thing to suffer from a disaster, but it is also an opportunity to regenerate a more resilient and safer place. The latter half period of the Sendai Framework implementation should be the time when the international community renews its commitment to the Priority 4 of the Sendai Framework and takes concrete actions. For this object, Japan will support the International Recovery Forum to be held in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan next January as an important milestone towards the MTR.

Finally, I will close my remarks by hoping that the Sendai Framework implementation will be further promoted in the Asia-Pacific region through the discussion at APP-DRR. Thank you very much for your attention.