

Inaugural Meeting
of the
International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG)
Asia/Pacific Regional Interim Working Group

Date: Sep.8, Sep.9

Venue: Makuhari, Chiba Pref. Japan

The summary reports in this booklet are on the presentations and discussions in this meeting.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH
AND RESCUE ADVISORY GROUP
ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKING GROUP
INAUGURAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8,9,1992

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA
INITIAL MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE ADVISORY GROUP
ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL INTERIM WORKING GROUP
SEPTEMBER 8-9, 1992

Tuesday September 8

1000--1010	Welcome
1010--1020	Opening Remarks
1020--1030	Objectives of Meeting
1030--1050	Introduction of Participants
1050--1110	Break
1110--1200	INSARAG Mandate and Structure
1200--1330	Lunch
1330--1400	INSARAG Initiatives
	1. Responsibilities of Affected and Assisting Countries
1400--1430	2. UNDRO SAR Directory, SAR Team Quality Review, and standardization
1430--1500	3. OSOCC
1500--1515	Break
1515--1745	Regional Activity Review
1830--2000	Participant Social

Wednesday September 9

0900--1500	Participation on Working Group
0900--1200	Discussion
1200--1330	Lunch
1330--1500	Presentation
1500--1530	Break
1530--1700	Conclusion
1645--1700	Closeout

(1)Opening Speech (full text)

Given by: Mr. Kakei

I would like to welcome you all to the Inaugural Meeting of the INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Group. We are pleased that you have found the time to attend this meeting and to contribute to establishing mechanism designed to improve relief operations and strengthen international cooperation in the preparedness for and response to disasters.

The previous Workshop concluded that, for the continued efforts to streamline relief operations, there are two concurrent priorities; One is to assist disaster-prone developing countries by improving their SAR capabilities; Another is to strengthen the functions of existing teams in donor countries rather than create new ones. As a matter of fact, most of the people trapped in collapsed structures are rescued in the first hours after the disaster, before the arrival of foreign teams.

The fact is that no help is more efficient than the one locally available. However, no matter how well prepared a country is or what resources she has at her disposal, she might still face a situation which requires more resources than those locally available. As we all know, the lack of sufficient resources could be often fatal in a disaster. We, therefore, have no doubt about the usefulness of international teams on the site of a disaster. Even when swift decisions are made to engage such resources in an international operation, however, it is still necessary to strengthen the system to pin-point, mobilize and coordinate them. In addition, in case the coordinating body of a stricken country were too weak to give an operational response to the disaster, how could it be expected to successfully integrate international responses in the relief operation? There is a need to establish a mechanism which could streamline the procedures for international relief teams as well as to coordinate these teams once they are deployed.

Lastly, let me make a stress that we all have the same mission; to alleviate the tragic consequences of disasters. I am convinced that, somehow, we can find the way to attain this aim. Whether we succeed or not is all dependent on the efforts both on the part of

ourselves and affected countries.

(2) Message from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (full text)

Given by: Mr. Shidara(Director of Overseas Disaster Assistance
Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau,
MOFA)

Read by: Mr.Furukawa

It is truly a pleasure and privilege for me to be afforded an opportunity to greet such distinguished participants in the INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Working Group Meeting.

We are delighted to know that SAR specialists from the Asia-Pacific Region and international organizations concerned are being assembled today and tomorrow to this inaugural meeting, responding to the initiative taken by our colleagues in JICA.

I understand that the purpose of this meeting is to exchange ideas and information on SAR activities at the time of major disasters. Through the meeting, you are to improve your operational coordination capabilities in the Region.

Taking this opportunity, allow me to introduce some measures taken by the Government of Japan this year. They were implemented for the purpose of enhancing organizational, budgetary and legal frameworks in the field of international disaster assistance.

First: In April 1992, the Ministry has established an independent office, the Overseas Disaster Assistance Division, within the Economic Cooperation Bureau. This office is in charge of policy planning for overseas emergency relief, decision-making on the dispatch of JDR (Japan Disaster Relief Team), provision of relief supplies and finally, grant aid to disaster affected countries. In fulfilling these responsibilities, we keep a daily contact with Secretariate of JDR in JICA, which is our implementing body of overseas relief activities. As you can see, there was an organizational reform carried out in JICA, just simultaneously as we did in the Ministry.

Second: The Ministry has intensified its assistance in financial resources for relief operations.

Third: In view of the past experiences in the JDR dispatch, the Law related to the JDR dispatch was amended June, 1992. Basically, this amendment was made to enhance operational capabilities of JDR in their overseas relief operation.

Japan's emergency assistance policies for affected countries and their victims are deep-rooted in humanitarian concerns. We really wish to endeavor to make an international contribution, within our capacity, to disaster relief operation. Through such an effort, we would like to share the burden borne by the affected countries and their people and to help them overcome the difficulties.

The Government of Japan will actively participate in improving the effectiveness of international relief operations.

In concluding my message, let me extend my best wishes for fruitful outcome of the meeting. I am firmly convinced this meeting will be a significant step towards strengthened cooperation among the participating countries in the Region.

(3) Objective of Meeting

Explained by: Mr. Furukawa

There are 3 goals to be pursued in the meeting.

Goal 1: Get to know one another.

- By knowing one another, we could improve operational coordination and accelerate the availability and the quality of regional and international resources.

Goal 2: Review the INSARAG mandate and initiative.

- Discuss opportunities for the INSARAG initiatives
- Enhance and augment current disaster management programs in the Region

Goal 3: Identify the participants in the Regional Group

- Promote their understanding on INSARAG initiatives
- Expand participation in the Regional Group

There are 6 objectives set up in the meeting.

Objective 1: Describe the mandate and the structure of INSARAG.

First, we need to understand the reason why we hold this Asia-Pacific meeting. To do so, we also have to understand the reason why UNDRO established INSARAG to begin with, and its mandate and structure.

Objective 2: Review initiatives presently undertaken by INSARAG.

We should not forget that there is a solid platform already established in the Inaugural Meeting of INSARAG last year. We have to base all our work here on this platform, in which we concluded 4 protocols: responsibilities of the disaster affected countries and assisting countries, OSOCC (the On-site Operations Coordination Center), and the establishment of INSARAG.

Objective 3: Decide the format and content of the regional questionnaire.

The regional questionnaire is to obtain country-by-country information on operational capabilities, their needs, training programs already established, under development or under consideration.

Objective 4: Identify disaster management training in the Region and develop programs in the future.

The disaster management training is likely to accelerate collaboration in the Region and to enhance INSARAG initiatives.

Objective 5: Define the purposes and identify the participants in the Regional Working Group.

We have to define some goals in the Group both on a short-term and a long-term basis, so that we can realize in which direction we are going. In addition, we also need to identify the members in

order to know who we should make a contact with.

Objective 6: Develop a workplan for the Group with a
time-table.

With a time-tabled workplan, we could devise our strategies more effectively.

In addition to these goals and objectives, there are 4 points we should reconfirm pertaining to the meeting procedures.

1. The meeting should be based on the guidelines for international relief operations. Furthermore, the results of the meeting should be adopted on a voluntary basis in each country. These principles will also obviate the need to enter some sensitive areas in international law. Should we step in such a area, it would slow down the meeting process. Of course, in case it proves favorable to refer the results to a higher level meeting, we should not hesitate to do so. In such a case, however, we have to carefully choose an appropriate time and form for that.
2. We should not forget that we already have a solid platform, on which we should base the meeting. (Refer to Objective 4) It is not necessary to strike out a new wheel.
3. All the governments and teams concerned should also get involved in the pre-disaster phase of prevention and preparedness. The first level of international assistance, when requested, should always be based on the regional cooperation. The importance of initiatives to reinforce mutual contacts and arrangements, therefore, should not be underestimated.
4. We are all responsible, in some way or another, to extend some assistance to the people in need. INSARAG is one of the channels to perform our duties. As a matter of fact, what we can achieve in this meeting is limited, not a solution to all the problems we are confronted with. We have to be reminded, however, that this is the first step to approach the solution.

(4) Self-Introduction

Made by: All the participants

(Refer to Page1)

(5) INSARAG Mandate and Structure

Presented by: Mr. Almgren

DHA (the Department of Humanitarian Affairs) in UNDRO (Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordination)

* The DHA was founded based on the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly last year.

* The purpose of the establishment was to attach more importance to humanitarian affairs in general and in terms of the relevant relief in emergency situation.

* The DHA was incorporated in UNDRO.

* The DHA has 2 offices; one is in New York, another is in Geneva. The former is dealing with political implications in emergency relief (humanitarian diplomacy), while the latter is dealing with operational aspects of relief coordination.

11:41h 7 December 1988

* A major earthquake hit in Armenia, in the former Soviet Union, on this time of the date. Responding to this sudden natural disaster, an unprecedented number of international relief teams were dispatched there.

* Through this experience, the people concerned learned a lot of lessons on the emergency management in general and on the effectiveness of the international teams specifically.

Benefits

* The benefits of international teams are as follows.

The international teams can bring in:

1. specialized know-how
2. additional technical resources

They can promote:

3. exchange of skills
4. international solidarity/morale of local rescue workers

Areas for improvement

* In international SAR activities, we should improve the following functions.

1. Reaction and response
 - An earlier arrival or mobilization proves effective.
2. Local interaction
 - The operation should be amalgamated into local relief operations.
3. coordination and cooperation
 - The international teams tend to have difficulty coordinating and cooperating both with local teams and among themselves.
4. Selection and mobilization
 - It is necessary to select a team with appropriate expertise and experience to be assigned to a specific disaster site.

NERS 3 (the 3rd Meeting of the National Emergency Relief Services)

* This meeting was held in 1989, a year after the Armenian earthquake.

* As a result of the meeting. UNDRO was requested to:

1. hold an urban SAR workshop to extract all the hands-on experience from the people having participated in the relief operation in Armenia.
2. develop a directory of the SAR teams qualified to join international relief operations.

Directory of International SAR Teams

* The first edition was issued in 1991.

* The list in the Directory was based on the 23 answers responding to the questionnaires distributed to 70 countries.

* Now, UNDRO is working on updating the information and trying to introduce more elements in quality assurance.

The Wattener Lizum Workshop

* The International SAR Workshop was convened by UNDRO in Wattener Lizum, 8-12 April 1991.

* The purpose of the meeting was to collect information on the hands-on experience from the SAR workers having operated in Armenia. However, some of the suggestions put forward in this meeting turned out to be unrealistic due to other considerations since all the participants there were technicians. Therefore, UNDRO decided to include policy makers in the future meetings.

SAR protocols

* One of the main results of the Wattener Lizum Workshop is the 4 protocols outlining the ideas on:

1. Affected country's responsibilities
2. Assisting country's responsibilities
3. OSOCC
4. International Advisory Committee

Priorities

* We should give priorities to the following issues in INSARAG activities.

1. Improvement of SAR capability in disaster-prone developing regions
2. Strengthening of existing teams in donor countries rather than creating new ones

Urban SAR

* The urban SAR, or the collapsed-structure SAR following earthquakes, is just a small segment of the total picture of emergency management.

* In fact, UNDRO is more interested in a wider spectrum of emergency management and it believes the efforts in this limited

area will eventually expand to the other areas.

* The ideas and recommendations resulting from the work within this area can be applicable to many other disaster situations, especially to those following a sudden onset of emergency or a natural disaster.

Levels of coordination

* In the coordination of international relief, the efforts need to be put on the following 3 levels.

1. International: e.g. in Geneva or New York, where the UN offices related to humanitarian sections are located
2. National: in the capitals of affected countries, where their related ministries are located and where we can approach the ambassadors and representatives from assisting countries and organizations.
3. On-site/Operational Coordination:
necessary to find out the current situation, the size of damage, the needs in the area, the appropriate timing for the launch of operation and the operational effect on the on-site.

* Initially, UNDRO had been involved only in the Level 1, and Level 2 (International and National). INSARAG gives UNDRO an opportunity to re-evaluate Level 3.

Operational coordination

* INSARAG was started in the interest of "operational coordination".

* It is defined as "a concept for facilitation and coordination of international relief at the site of an emergency"

* Operational coordination entails:

1. immediate assessment of damage and relief needs.
2. initiation of on-site coordination of international relief.
3. development of procedures and systems to activate appropriate level of assistance.
4. exchange of know-hows and techniques.

5. emphasis on strengthening capabilities of disaster-prone developing countries.

Associated projects

* The efforts in the coordination of the international relief teams are fitted in with other projects and activities in UN as follows.

1. the UNDP (the United Nations Development Program)/UNDRO Disaster Management Training Program (DMTP)

- DMTP aims at Level 2 coordination, in the capital of an affected country.

2. the Information Management, Communications and Office System Unit in DHA-UNDRO

3. DHA-UNDRO Operations Center

4. Registering of stockpiles and relief resources

5. Use of military resources in disaster relief

- to utilize logistics and transport operations in the military
- easiest way to realize the relief operation both from political and practical viewpoints.

Mandate and structure of INSARAG

* The report on the Inaugural Meeting of INSARAG describes INSARAG mandate and structure in detail.

* INSARAG mandate leaves open the doors for a much wider interest in the coordination of relief operations in general.

* INSARAG is a UN-sponsored platform for cooperation.

* It is of crucial importance that the actors in disaster relief operations are involved in INSARAG activities, since UN can provide neither experience nor results.

* There are 2 important points in INSARAG mandate and structure:

1. "to develop effective international relationships aimed at saving lives and rendering humanitarian services following disasters"

2. "open to all countries able and willing to perform relief operations in other countries as well as countries likely to need such assistance"

- INSARAG is open not only to countries but also to organizations, though the participating organizations do not have the right to vote since it is a UN organization. Therefore, the results of INSARAG should be accepted by the participating countries.

Main structure of INSARAG

(Refer to Chart 1)

* Chart 1 describes the current structure of INSARAG. However, the role of the Regional Groups are actually more significant than we see from this chart since the first step in the international cooperation is always taken on the regional level.

* There are 3 Regional Groups in INSARAG due to the differences in needs in each region. The 3 Regions identified in the Inaugural Meeting are:

1. Africa and Europe
2. Americas
3. Asia and Pacific

* The Regional Group holds its own meeting independently, and the chairperson or the representative from each Group participates in the Steering Group Meeting so that the results of the Regional Group can be discussed furthermore on the interregional, full international level.

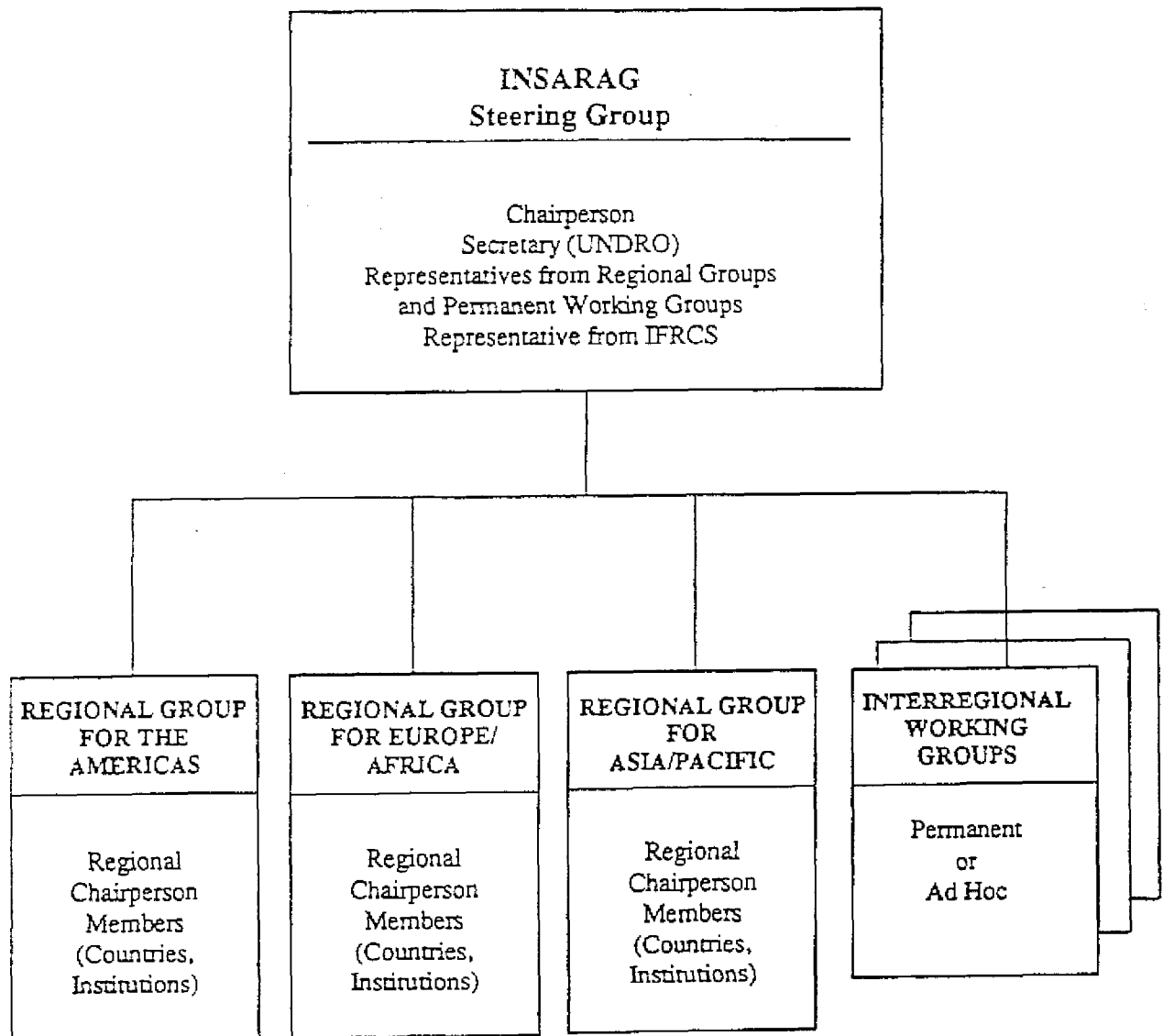
Interregional Working Groups

* As a result of the Inaugural Meeting of INSARAG, the 3 Interregional Working Groups were established. They discuss the following subjects respectively.

1. quality control and inclusion of SAR teams in the UNDRO Directory of International SAR Teams
2. OSOCC
3. Exercise '93, an international exercise in emergency management to be organized in 1993

Coordination of international relief operation

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE ADVISORY GROUP (INSARAG)



* "The coordination of international operations cannot be imposed. It must be recognized as a service which facilitates and improves a given operation."

INSARAG

* "INSARAG forms a platform for future initiatives in international cooperation in preparedness for and response to emergencies."

(6) Responsibilities of Affected and Assisting Countries ① (Republic of the Philippines)

Presented by: Mr. Grande

In this presentation, Mr. Grande elaborated on how his country had coped with a major disaster which had hit the republic just recently.

(full text)

1. Introduction

July 16th, 1990, the killer earthquake, that hit the central and northern Philippines, left in its wake 1,283 people dead, 2,786 injured, 321 missing, and affected at least 227,918 families consisting of 1,285,288 people. Around P12.2 billion (or US\$435.7million) worth of properties were damaged while some 102,456 houses were either totally or partially damaged. This was a single strong tremor which struck the central and northern parts of our country.

A great number of the casualties were either trapped in collapsed buildings or buried by landslides and could not be immediately extricated therefrom because of the lack of systematic rescue capabilities in the disaster areas.

During the initial stages of the rescue and recovery operations in the collapsed buildings, especially in the cities of Baguio and Cabanatuan, volunteer rescue workers from the Philippine Military Academy (cadets) and Baguio-based miners, together with some 295 army soldiers worked around-the-clock to rescue the

trapped occupants in the damaged buildings. However, they were not equipped with proper rescue tools and equipment. So, these people had to rely solely on their bare hands to save the victims from the collapsed hotels, schools and residences.

In the meantime, at about the same time, offers of assistance from foreign countries with rescue capabilities poured in. The republic gladly accepted those offers because the requirements arising from the human and physical damages were beyond the capability to respond effectively on her own. In fact, this was one of the worst disasters in the Philippines in the recent years.

First to come were the elements from the US Air Force as well as the Navy Seabees at the Subic Bay. Other foreign rescue teams from the US, Singapore, Britain, Japan, Canada, Korea and France later joined in to undertake much-needed operations in the earthquake-affected area.

2. Rescue services in the Philippines

It was only in the early 70's when rescue services were started to be organized under the umbrella of the National and Local Disaster Control Centers. However, at that time, there were already Air and Sea Disaster Rescue Units which were organized in response to the Philippines' commitment to the International Civil Aviation Organization(ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization(IMO). These Rescue Units are composed of the Manila Rescue Coordination Center established to deal with air crashes and the Philippine Coast Guard established to deal with naval disasters. However, there were no dedicated rescue squad, nor were equipment and training for rescue purposes.

In 1976, rescue and recovery services were vested in the Local Disaster Coordinating Councils under the Department of Public Works and Highways as well as the Armed Forces of the Philippines providing support to the local efforts.

The Fire Service Department, which was then operating under the umbrella of the Integrated National Police(INP), had already started building up its rescue capability, but mostly only within the Metro-Manila area. The rescue equipment, brought in from

Japan, consisted of fire trucks and a rescue tender equipped with light rescue equipment and tools. Some trained rescue squads manned these pieces of equipment.

There are also volunteer rescue groups in our country, but their skills and the trainings given to them are diversified. Furthermore, they are not properly equipped for massive rescue and recovery operations.

3. Present efforts of the Philippine government to improve the Disaster Coordinating Council rescue capability and its responsibilities as an affected country

3 days after the occurrence of the killer earthquake, then the chairman of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), Fidel V. Ramos (Currently he is the incumbent President of the Philippines), recognizing the need for a more effective nation-wide quick response rescue-recovery capability, created the Study Committee under the Department of National Defense. The primary objective of the committee was to study and recommend the immediate development of DND-wide quick response rescue-recovery capability on case of a disaster resulting from an earthquake, typhoon, large conflagration or Tsunami.

In the pursuit of its objectives, the committee was guided by the following considerations:

1. The rescue-recovery capability will be developed on the concepts of self-reliance, unit integrity, and decentralized operations with the Armed Forces as the nucleus. The use of local capabilities in the affected areas, to include foreign assistance when offered, should, however, be integrated in planning.

2. Existing Armed Forces capabilities and expertise should be tapped to help organize special forces, special action forces, engineer units and medical fire services. Units or elements to be earmarked should be pre-organized, dedicated, self-reliant and mobile in order to ensure quick response.

3. Such units should have self-contained engineering, medical and communications capabilities.

4. Coordination will be necessary among the INP, other civilian government agencies concerned and non-governmental organizations. this is to confirm the availability of equipment not in the Armed Forces inventory. Such a tie-up will be promoted through the National Disaster coordinating Council system.

5. Necessary special equipment will be programmed and procured immediately.

6. Intensive training on rescue-recovery operations and techniques will be conducted by earmarked units.

The national government gave its full endorsement to the findings and recommendations of the Study Group to build up the rescue capability with the Armed Forces as the nucleus. The government also supported the recommendation that proper training and equipment should be provided for the rescue teams.

We have already identified the existing rescue capabilities of the Military, Police, other government Agencies and the private sector. It is now only a matter of establishing operational linkage between the Armed Forces Rescue Team and the rest of the identified rescue teams. Then, we could ensure a systematic and well-coordinated approach in the delivery of rescue-recovery operations in disaster-stricken areas.

In addition, international linkage with foreign rescue teams such as those of the member countries in INSARAG will be also formed in the light of its experiences during the killer earthquake and more recently, the Pinatubo Volcano emergency. (There might be a certain difference in disaster management between these 2 cases since the latter is a rural type of disaster.)

We admit that in the handling of the rescue operations for the killer earthquake, there was no standard operating procedure for the acceptance of foreign rescue teams. While we had policies and procedures on offers for foreign assistance responding to common disasters, such as relief and medical supplies, construction materials and other rehabilitation items, offers of rescue services from foreign groups had not been included. This deficiency initially brought confusion among the assisting

countries and disaster managers, but this was only during the first week of the earthquake emergency.

As soon as the offers of assistance in the form of rescue teams arrived, guidelines and procedures were quickly prepared by NDCC. Then, NDCC assigned the Armed Forces to handle the receipt/entry of the foreign rescue teams. Their responsibilities included flight clearances, visa issuance and landings and all other requirements at the airports and the seaports. Followingly, all these responsibilities at the height of the earthquake operations were eventually transferred to the Office of the President. The Office, since then, has been handling the appropriation of financial assistance from foreign countries at the time of a disaster. Since this transfer of authority, everything has been going smoothly because once an offer is accepted by the Office, there is no inspection conducted at the port of entry. However, this procedure is only an emergency measure, and we are studying how we could institutionalize this procedure to make it our regular approach to the rescue operation.

A bigger problem that we are confronted with at the moment is the aspects of training and equipping the rescue teams. Today, specialized trainings on rescue-recovery are carried out on a very limited scale because of the absence of qualified trainers on rescue. On the other hand, equipping them faces a great obstacle on the part of our disaster managers due to the limited amount of funds coming from the government. The Calamity Fund in the country is reserved only for the actual emergency operations, not for preparatory trainings or purchases of equipment for NDCC operation teams.

Anyway, we have to overcome all of these constraints. Otherwise, we will fail to improve our rescue capabilities and that will pose a serious problem. We have already identified our existing rescue capabilities and local resources. Still, we have to do more to enhance our operational effectiveness. The membership of INSARAG under the aegis of DHA/UNDRO gives us a great opportunity to attain this objective. We saw how the assisting member-countries extended their helping hands to the Philippines during the last major earthquake. The instantaneous outpouring of support and assistance during the moment of our distress has given us a resolve to strengthen the cooperation and coordination with INSARAG members and other nations in the UN family. We really have to improve our rescue-recovery capabilities not only to ensure immediate emergency assistance to our people but also to share our own modest resources

with other countries which are equally affected by disasters of emergencies.

I see this initial gathering of countries from the Asia-Pacific Region and the Western nations as a welcome sign of awareness and concern for the many small countries in the part of the world which are often hit by disastrous calamities.

(6) Responsibilities of Affected and Assisting Countries ②

Presented by: Mr. Furukawa

Mr. Furukawa elaborated on the responsibilities of affected and assisting countries in accordance with the related descriptions in the Report on the Inaugural Meeting of INSARAG. The followings are the extracts from the Report.

Recommendations for disaster-affected countries

1. The affected countries should immediately begin an assessment of damage, available resources and needs.
2. Procedures for requesting international assistance should be streamlined. In requesting aid, the affected country should specify the priorities and the type of assistance it requires from SAR teams.
3. The affected country should grant simplified entry/exit procedures for for SAR personnel, dogs, transport and equipment.
4. The affected country should establish a Reception Center to provide liaison officials, briefings and initial instructions to individual teams.
- 5 The affected country should activate an OSOCC.
6. The affected country should provide teams with local transport, fuel and compressed gases.

Recommendations for countries providing international assistance

1. Assisting countries should support emergency preparedness and

the strengthening of SAR capabilities in disaster-prone developing countries.

2. SAR teams should meet internationally recognized standards for qualifications and proficiency.
3. SAR teams should be able to communicate with the stricken community and be sensitive to its culture.
4. SAR teams should have their own means of transportation to the affected country or a pre-established mechanism for this purpose.
5. SAR teams should be ready to be deployed within 12 hours of notification.
6. For coordination purposes, assisting countries should report to UNDRO immediately on deployment of SAR teams.
7. SAR teams should be self-sufficient for personal needs for a 14-day period.
8. Except for local transportation, fuel and compressed gases, SAR teams should have a 14-day operational capacity- without the need for re-supply.
9. SAR teams should encourage the participation of the local people in their operations.

(7) OSOCC

Presented by: Terry

1. In disaster management, we have a tendency to focus on the events, the consequences and the severity of disasters. However, we have to equally pay attention to the preceding aspects: awareness, preparation, anticipation and realization of activities. The point is that if we do not do the work in advance, we are not going to be able to do it when we need it.
2. One of the fundamental concerns leading to the formation of INSARAG are the areas for improvement as follows.

- Reaction and response
- Local interaction(relationship)
- Coordination and cooperation
- Selection and mobilization(of the capabilities on the ground)

3. Operational coordination means "A concept for facilitation and coordination of international relief at the site of an emergency".
 *For these reasons mentioned above(1-3), the many of the elements of INSARAG could come down to the fundamental appreciation and the effectiveness of the On-Site operations Coordination Center(OSOCC).

Functional capabilities of OSOCC

* In the previous meeting(the Inaugural Meeting of INSARAG), the following points were recognized as functional capabilities of OSOCC.

1. The authority and the capability of responding to disasters is the responsibility of the authority of the country.

- International teams are given opportunities to support and to augment the capabilities of the countries concerned.

2. OSOCC exists in a working relationship to the authority of the country concerned.

3. OSOCC is a support authority to provide assistance to augment capacity for improved response and more effective utilization of the resources available.(The resources here include human, material and cash resources.)

Functions of OSOCC

1. In order to support prevailing authorities and to increase the capabilities, OSOCC has to set up standard operating procedures. However, we have to bear it in mind that these standard procedure clearly have to be:

- based on experience in each region.
- sufficiently communicated and understood in relationships we can build in the networks.

2. OSOCC has to identify the functional tasks to be undertaken in

the event of the emergency, pertaining to:

- positions
- functional responsibilities
- supplies in equipment
- materials(which are either necessary, available
or supplied from outside)

3. OSOCC has to stand by arrangements and relationships for requirements.

4. Implementation activities of OSOCC are:

- to clarify what happened to whom, where and how severe
- to clarify what type of coordination is already existing:
what, who, where and how to contact
- to clarify what is the opportunity to provide the support
without any duplication.
- to formalize the requests and then to channel them down to
UNDRO.

Protocols of OSOCC

* In the previous meeting, the 3 golden rules were developed concerning OSOCC.

1. No parallel structures. There should be only one OSOCC.

2. The OSOCC must be able to take and implement decisions on the running of the relief operations.

3. The flow of information must be both to and from OSOCC. Note that this is very labour-intensive activity