

Opening Ceremony

Date · November 1 (Mon) 13:25 - 14:15

Venue · Century Hall
Nagoya Congress Center



Opening Message

Throughout human history, natural disasters have resulted in untold casualties and widespread damage.

Today, with the dawn of the 21st century approaching, the danger is no less real. Natural phenomena such as windstorms, floods, earthquakes, tidal waves and volcanic eruptions remain a serious threat to life and property in many parts of the world. Therefore, the United Nations has designated the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and many countries are now engaged in reducing the damage caused by natural disasters through concerted international action.

As one of the few advanced nations to have achieved both economic growth and natural disaster reduction simultaneously, despite a country geographically vulnerable to natural hazards, and also as one of the main countries proposing the IDNDR, Japan has taken positive actions to promote the IDNDR through international cooperation in the field of disaster prevention. Thus, it is our great pleasure to be sponsoring the IDNDR Aichi/Nagoya International Conference 1993 JAPAN, the fourth such IDNDR conference to be held.

In recent years, many developing countries have undergone rapid urbanization without having implemented sufficient preparations against natural disasters. Their vulnerability has raised fears of the potentially massive loss of life and property that could result if a natural calamity should befall such a city. In developed countries as well, the increased dependence on such lifeline facilities as electricity, gas and water, coupled with the overcrowding of metropolitan areas, has magnified the risk of an urban catastrophe.

It is, therefore, very appropriate that this conference is being held under the theme "Disaster Management in Metropolitan Areas for the 21st Century." I firmly believe that this conference, by focusing on disaster prevention in urban areas, provides a timely opportunity for a full exchange of the latest knowledge and experiences toward reducing the tragedy of natural disasters among all countries and regions of the world.

I am confident that this will be a highly productive conference, and earnestly hope that all the participants will continue to promote the IDNDR through the years to come as well.

Kosuke Uehara

Minister, National Land Agency
Vice-President, Japanese
Government Headquarters for the
IDNDR

for

Morihiro Hosokawa

Prime Minister
President, Japanese Government
Headquarters for the IDNDR

Opening Message

It is my very great pleasure to host the IDNDR International Conference Aichi/Nagoya 1993 JAPAN. We feel very fortunate to have the participation of His Imperial Highness The Crown Prince and Her Imperial Highness The Crown Princess, as well as experts in the field of disaster prevention from about 50 countries. To all of you, I extend a most sincere welcome to Aichi Prefecture.

Humanity has overcome numerous natural disasters on its long journey to today's prosperity. As the twenty-first century draws near, however, it is very regrettable that many human lives and much property are being lost from natural disasters that continue to occur around the world.

In the world's major cities, where economic infrastructures and populations are densely concentrated, new approaches to minimizing the effects of natural disasters are being sought. It is clear that such cities, which are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters, are likely to suffer extensive damage in the event of a natural calamity.

Aichi Prefecture itself has overcome several serious natural disasters in its history, notably the Nobi Earthquake and the Ise Bay Typhoon. Following a period of dramatic industrial and economic growth, Aichi Prefecture has today become a megalopolis that plays an important role both at home and abroad.

It is, therefore, truly significant that this conference is being held under the theme of "Disaster Management in Metropolitan Areas for the 21st Century." It is my sincere hope that this conference achieves resounding success through the exchange of valuable knowledge gained from experience; the sharing of the most recent information; and active discussions on current global disaster-prevention efforts.

I would like to end my greeting by expressing my wish that, through your admirable efforts, this conference succeeds in diminishing the effects of natural disasters while contributing to world peace and security.

Reiji Suzuki

Governor
Aichi Prefecture

Opening Message

On the opening of the IDNDR Aichi/Nagoya International Conference 1993 JAPAN here in Nagoya, I would like to extend my most sincere welcome to all of you on behalf of the more than 2 million citizens of Nagoya.

This marks the fourth year of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. The theme this year is "Disaster Management in Metropolitan Areas for the 21st Century." It is well understood that when a metropolitan area is hit by a natural disaster, overwhelming and incalculable damage can result. It is, therefore, our grave responsibility to determine the best methods of protecting the lives and property of our citizens from such disasters. Consequently, it is indeed significant that this conference of distinguished specialists from around the globe has gathered here to discuss disaster countermeasures by exchanging information and conferring on fundamental issues and contemporary topics related to metropolitan areas

Several serious disasters have stricken the Nagoya metropolitan area, the worst having been the Ise Bay typhoon of 1959, which claimed over 5,000 and caused more than 500 billion yen in damage. This was the most severe natural disaster to have occurred in this area since the Meiji era. The city was greatly supported in its reconstruction by the generous donations of aid from other parts of Japan and from many kind countries abroad.

The Ise Bay typhoon was the event that prompted us to undertake a disaster management initiative. Since then, we have worked continually to protect our city from disaster. Our experiences have inspired us to strengthen disaster countermeasures and to make a greater effort to promote international cooperation for the benefit of people around the world who have suffered from the effects of natural disasters.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere wish for the success of the IDNDR Aichi/Nagoya International Conference 1993 JAPAN.

Takeyoshi Nishio
Mayor
City of Nagoya

Opening Message

On the occasion of the opening of the IDNDR Aichi/Nagoya International Conference 1993 JAPAN, I would like to express my gratitude to Your Imperial Highnesses, The Crown Prince and The Crown Princess, distinguished guests from the United Nations and the Japanese Red Cross Society, and everyone participating in the conference, for their gracious participation.

In 1990, the United Nations designated the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in an effort to minimize, by the year 2000, the damage wrought by natural disasters worldwide. As part of this effort, annual conferences are held on specific themes. The theme for this fourth annual conference is "Disaster Management in Metropolitan Areas for the 21st Century"

The concentration of populations in metropolitan areas is a relatively recent phenomenon common to both developed and developing countries. In extreme cases, the disruption from an urban natural disaster may extend beyond the lives of its citizens to affect the world economy.

In this conference, discussions will focus on urban disaster prevention, particularly on problems connected with the disruption of distribution facilities such as pipelines and roads. Experts on urban disaster countermeasures from 50 countries will participate, sharing information and expertise with their administrative and academic counterparts in Japan. We are confident that all participants will obtain up-to-date information on urban disaster prevention and disseminate this knowledge worldwide.

During the past year, several serious natural disasters have struck. Fresh in our minds was the terrible, almost inestimable damage caused by the large earthquake in a little-known region of India southeast of Bombay. In Japan, we experienced an earthquake and tidal waves off Hokkaido; landslides caused by prolonged rain in southern Kyushu; and severe damage from Typhoon No. 13.

Six years remain before the IDNDR draws to a close. Now almost at the mid-point, we must redouble our research efforts to make the coming century more secure for humanity.

In closing, I would like to express my wish for the great success of the conference.

Jiro Kondo

Chairperson, Japan National
Committee for the IDNDR
President, Science Council of Japan

Opening Message

Your Imperial Highnesses, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,
Colleagues, and Friends

The International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and the recent United Nations Conference on Environment and Development together highlight two closely interlinked issues - Natural Disasters and the Environment. Both issues are of the highest priority for the developing countries and, therefore, for the World Bank. Designation of this decade, the 1990s, by the United Nations as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, recognizes the first coordinated effort to prevent unnecessary losses of life and property from disasters.

Sustainable development as we now understand it, has three essential elements - economic prosperity, environmental protection, and social stability. All three elements of sustainable development are threatened by natural disasters. Therefore, disaster prevention is now widely accepted by everyone as a key element of sustainable development itself. And sustainable development is in fact the major challenge facing humanity for the remainder of this century and for the 21st century.

Because natural systems and human lives are affected by extreme events (as the recent disasters in India, Turkey, and elsewhere have demonstrated), the World Bank - as a development institution - will continue its support for improving the capacity of our member countries to mitigate negative impacts of both natural and technological hazards.

We are particularly concerned because disasters affect the poor the most. And poverty alleviation and improving of the welfare of the poor is one of the fundamental purposes of the Bank's policy.

Finally, let me close by assuring you that we strongly support and endorse the objective of this conference and eagerly await your findings and recommendations. We hope to incorporate your results into our policies and operations on disaster prevention and management, and also environmental protection. We wish the conference all success in meeting its important objectives for the entire world community.

Mohan Munasinghe

Division Chief, Environmental
Economics and Pollution Division
The World Bank

for

Mohamed T. El-Ashry

Chief Environmental Adviser
to the President and
Director of Environment
The World Bank

Opening Message

Your Imperial Highnesses, the Crown Prince and the Crown Princess of Japan.
Distinguished guests from overseas and Japan, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is indeed a great honor for me to extend a few words at the opening of this most meaningful conference on behalf of the United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services (UNDDSMS) and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD).

As a member of the United Nations system, UNCRD has long been concerned with disaster management issues for regional development through technical research work, human resource development and knowledge dissemination.

Through these experiences, UNCRD has reaffirmed its belief that highest priority of international cooperation for natural disaster reduction should be given to the protection of metropolitan areas which contain the majority of populations and infrastructures for supporting advanced modern societies and their economic activities.

As a consequence of the continued demographic concentration to urbanized areas, there will be approximately sixty megacities with a population of over 5 million by the beginning of the next century. If a major disaster were to strike any one of these megacities, the effects would be catastrophic with immeasurable losses of human resources and properties. In consideration of this fact, all members of the world community should cooperate with one other in seeking out effective measures and establishing operational programmes to cope with possible future natural disasters that threaten metropolitan areas throughout the world, particularly in developing countries.

With this policy in mind, this IDNDR Aichi/Nagoya International Conference 1993 JAPAN has been organized with the collaboration of the Japanese Government Headquarters for the IDNDR, Japan National Committee for the IDNDR, Aichi Prefectural Government, the City of Nagoya, the World Bank and UNCRD.

Ladies and gentlemen, I do hope that this international conference will surely produce significant results which may serve as the basis of discussions at the upcoming World Conference to be held in May next year. I would like to conclude my address by encouraging your active participation in this conference so that we may together realize fruitful results that will contribute to the creation of a less hazardous world.

Hideki Kaji

Director
United Nations Centre for
Regional Development
(UNDDSMS/UNCRD)

Speech of His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince

I am pleased to welcome the many people from around the world who have gathered here today to participate in the IDNDR Aichi/Nagoya International Conference 1993 JAPAN

The International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, which was declared by the resolution of the (42nd) United Nations General Assembly, is now in its fourth year. I am told that this conference is but one of many forms of disaster prevention activity being conducted around the world for the purpose of reducing disaster damage through international cooperation.

In spite of such activity, this year too has seen many immense natural disasters throughout the world, including Japan - torrential rains, flooding, earthquakes - resulting in the loss of precious human life and property. I would like to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt sympathy to those who have been the victims of these natural disasters.

It is said that the damage from natural disasters is particularly great in metropolitan areas, because of the high population density and the concentrated economic infrastructure in such places. This Conference will place special emphasis on Disaster Management in Metropolitan Areas. I sincerely hope that Japan and the other countries of the world can pool their priceless experience and knowledge through discussion and research, to promote the cause of international cooperation and interchange.

Finally, I hope also that the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction will provide the occasion for the nations of the world, in preparation for the 21st century, to work together ever more closely for the prevention of disaster and the reduction of disaster-related damage.

Congratulatory Address

Your Imperial Highnesses, distinguished organizers of the conference, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to address this inaugural session of the IDNDR Aichi/Nagoya International Conference on Disaster Management in Metropolitan Areas for the 21st Century, and to represent the United Nations the department of humanitarian affairs and the IDNDR Secretariat.

I am particularly pleased to be here because of the strong interest and support of the Japanese Government and Japanese people to the work of the United Nations. I should like to express our sincere gratitude for this leadership and support of Japan.

The presence here today of the members of the Imperial Family signifies the strong commitment of Japan. I trust that this commitment will continue and find new, more and more significant avenues in future, we are prepared to work in close cooperation with Japan, to make the plans of today materialize tomorrow.

The orientation of this conference is future. It is in the rapidly growing metropolitan areas of today and of the 21st century, where disaster reduction activities will have to be intensified, to protect our assets, the results of the development, and to protect the lives of the ever increasing numbers of families, many living in urban slums vulnerable to disasters.

Therefore, I should like to congratulate the organizers of this conference for the initiative: the Government of Japan, the Aichi Prefectural Government, City of Nagoya, Japan National IDNDR Committee, the World Bank, United Nations Centre for Regional Development as well as the many scientists in the planning committee and the promoting committee members.

We have among the speakers and participants many members of the IDNDR scientific and technical committee and representatives of UN system and voluntary sector, notably the Red Cross. Many of us are deeply involved in the preparatory work for another very important event, the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction which, at the invitation of the Government of Japan, will take place in Yokohama in May next year. This conference in Nagoya/Aichi will undoubtedly have a profound effect on the next year's conference and on the future direction of the decade. To enhance disaster reduction through sharing information, knowledge, experiences and the results of science and technology. We shall all help make a safer world for the 21st century.

I wish the conference very success.

Olavi Elo

Director
IDNDR Secretariat
United Nations

Keynote Speech

Date : November 1 (Mon) 14:15 - 15:00

Venue : Century Hall
Nagoya Congress Center

" The IDNDR - Its Importance for Metropolitan Areas "

James P. Bruce
Chair, Canadian Climate Program Board
Chair, Science and Technical Committee for
the IDNDR (STC), Canada

