Chair’s Summary

ASEAN Plus Three International Conference on Disaster Management
30 August-1 September 2010, Tokyo, Japan

1. ASEAN Plus Three International Conference on Disaster Management, hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in close cooperation with the Cabinet Office of Japan, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), with participation of officials and academic experts from the ASEAN Plus Three countries and observer countries such as Australia and India as well as other international organizations, was convened on 30 August-1 September 2010 in Tokyo, Japan.

2. The Meeting reviewed the progresses and challenges in the first half decade of the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015 (HFA) in the region and discussed to identify new challenges in the next half decade of the HFA with a view to contributing to the Mid-Term Review of the HFA. Participants of the Meeting shared the view that progresses have been made at both national and regional levels. It was also pointed out that adaptation to climate change should be linked with disaster risk reduction policy in each country and facilitated through the regional cooperation in view of the disaster management.

3. The Meeting shared the view that support to local government and community-based approach through enhancing people’s ownership and responsibilities can be effective mechanisms for disaster management.

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ASEAN Plus Three; ASEAN Member States (Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam) and People’s Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea
4. The Meeting welcomed China’s initiative of the ASEAN Plus Three Seminar on Urban Disaster Emergency Management which was held on 5-7 May 2010 in Beijing, China and recalled its recommendations especially to establish an expert pool for ASEAN Plus Three members.

5. The Meeting was informed of the 4th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held on 25-28 October 2010 in Incheon, Korea and expressed its hope that successful and fruitful outcomes will be achieved.

6. The Meeting acknowledged the important role of ADRC to the regional cooperation in Asia on disaster management and recognized valuable and significant activities of JICA in bilateral cooperation on disaster management through the Official Development Assistance of Japanese government.

7. The Meeting welcomed Japan’s contribution to regional cooperation on disaster management in the region and initiatives including the proposal to utilize Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in disaster management.

8. The Meeting welcomed progress of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) which entered into force on 24 December 2009 and appreciated recent initiatives of ASEAN countries to strengthen its capacity for disaster management.

9. The Meeting also welcomed the ISDR global campaign on “Making Cities Resilient” and encouraged all ASEAN Member States to actively participate in the campaign as well as to nominate participating cities and role model cities in their respective countries to join this campaign.

10. The Meeting, taking into consideration all these efforts and initiatives by ASEAN Plus Three countries, recalling that the cooperation area of disaster management has been put on top priority in the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation under the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the Work Plan (2007-2017) adopted at the 11th ASEAN Plus Three Summit held in November 2007 in Singapore, having in mind that the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation on disaster management should be consistent with the “Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity” and respecting ASEAN’s centrality as well as its this year’s slogan “From Vision to Action” initiated by Vietnam, chair country of ASEAN, shared the view that ASEAN Plus Three countries should further enhance and deepen cooperation in the area of disaster management especially disaster prevention in urban cities and communities in close cooperation with partner countries and international organizations and therefore recommended;
a) to encourage each ASEAN Plus Three country to accelerate implementation of disaster management projects considering bottom up approach and centring on people;

b) to encourage each ASEAN Plus Three country to further strengthen regional cooperation on disaster management by sharing information, expertise and technologies as well as allocating necessary resources with appropriate priorities;

c) to consider conducting a project with a theme of disaster management focusing on prevention in urban cities and communities with financial assistance by the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund;

d) to utilize existing ASEAN Plus Three cooperation framework such as the Network of East Asia Think Tanks to follow-up the suggestions made at this conference;

e) to encourage members to carry out the research and development with regard to the linkage of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction; and

f) also to encourage other partners countries for further cooperation and international organizations for further assistance to efforts by ASEAN Plus Three countries in the area of disaster management.

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