Summary Report

The Working Session celebrated the progress made over the Hyogo Framework for Action in strengthening knowledge and education in disaster risk reduction towards building a global culture of safety and resilience. The Working Session highlighted the successful integration of disaster risk reduction as part of school curriculum at primary and secondary school level, and recognised the encouraging developments in higher education with increasing number and diversity of University degrees and teachers training on disaster risk reduction and the use of innovative e-learning platforms. The session also commented on the important link between disaster risk reduction education and education for sustainable development and called for closer cooperation with climate change education process to meet the Sustainable Development Goals’ objective on Education.

The Working Session underscored the importance of building on the local knowledge, traditional wisdom, story-telling and art performances to foster a trans-generational learning, exchange of experiences and good practices on risk. It is essential to involve local communities including children and youth in risk assessment and planning for a better understanding of risks and to ensure the sustainability of education and awareness-raising activities within the community. Lessons from the past should not be forgotten. Commemorations of past disasters were strongly encouraged. Informal learning through the involvement of media-based activities (media clips, TV documentary, press articles) also represent a major tool for building knowledge and a better understanding and learning process of risks that should be further promoted globally.

Commitments / Further Work

- Japan and IFRC to improve and scale up disaster risk reduction community-level education through common messaging on risk reduction, hazard specific education, the creation of local committees, an enhanced recognition of traditional knowledge and the involvement of children as part of kids clubs on disaster risk reduction, art performances etc.
- IFRC to scale up community education work with local communities
- Call from Cambodian girl to parents to encourage their children to be involved in educational and awareness-raising activities so to become knowledgeable about disaster risk reduction and play an active role in preparing the community to future disasters.
• Strengthen link between Disaster Risk Reduction Education with Education for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Education
• Promote commemorations of past disasters as a basis for a new learning process and a better understanding of risks
• Foster more systematic preparedness drills at community, school and family levels for a better application of disaster risk knowledge.
• Promote media’s contribution to community risk education through the training of journalists and media technology innovation for disaster risk.

Speakers List


Keynote Speaker:  Prof. Kevin R Ronan, Professorial Research Fellow, School of Human, Health and Social Sciences, CQUniversity Australia; Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre.

Panelists:  Ms. Elvira Sarieva, Minister of Education and Science, Kyrgyzstan.
Mr. Tohizo Ido, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, Japan.
Mr. Armen Grigoryan, Head, Emergency Rescue Department, Armenia.
Ms. Dorkas Kapembe, Secretary General of Namibia Red Cross.
Ms. Ien Sophoeurn, Child from Cambodia.