



ECO- UN Habitat Workshop on
"Urban Resilience, Habitat Improvement, Disaster
Risk Management and Built Environment"

Report

11-14 November 2018

ECO Secretariat, Tehran

"Urban Resilience, Habitat Improvement, Disaster Risk Management and Built Environment"

1. The ECO Secretariat jointly with UN Habitat office in Tehran, organized a four days workshop on "Urban Resilience, Habitat Improvement, Disaster Risk Management and Built Environment" for ECO Member states. The workshop was held at ECO Secretariat in Tehran from 11 to 14 November 2018 with financial support from the Government of Japan and was attended by the delegates from Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran and Republic of Tajikistan.

Participants

2. This meeting was attended by representatives from ECO Secretariat; UN-Habitat Office in Iran and Afghanistan; Kabul Municipality; Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA); Deputy Ministry of Municipalities (DMM) of Afghanistan; Housing Foundation of the Islamic Revolution; Ministry of Road and Urban Development; Tehran Province Water and Wastewater Company; Afghanistan Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MUDH); Department of Climate Change and Health; Institute of Environment Research; Tehran University of Medical Science; Municipality of Tehran; Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in Iran; the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) and UNESCO Office in Iran.

Inauguration of the Workshop

3. In the opening session Ambassador Mr. Huseyin Avni Bicakli, Deputy Secretary General of ECO, highlighted ECO activities and commitments on reducing disaster risks. He emphasized that disasters are a major contributor to entrenched poverty in low- and

middle-income countries attempting to recover from extreme weather events amplified by the effects of climate change. Mr. Bicakli also extended his gratitude to UN Habitat office in Tehran for co-organizing this workshop and added that HABITAT has been one of the potential partners for ECO and mentioned also that a UNESCO-Habitat Project on Seismic Hazard and Risk Analysis focusing on 4 ECO Member States, namely, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkmenistan has been jointly done before. He also highlighted that the ECO Secretariat has been pursuing cooperation and partnerships with potential relevant regional and international stakeholders with a view to sharing technical and other assistance and resources.

4. In his keynote speech, Mr. Siamak Moghaddam, Chief of UN-Habitat Tehran Office welcomed the participants and expressed his gratitude to the head of Afghanistan delegation, Mr. Haidari, Deputy Minister of State Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian affairs of Afghanistan, for providing the opportunity for UN-Habitat Offices in both countries (Iran and Afghanistan) to co-operate within the framework of Afghanistan's "Project for City Resilience (PCR)". He pointed out to the importance of issues such as Urban Resilience and Disaster Risk Management for UN-Habitat in documents such as the New Urban Agenda (NUA), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and emphasized on the importance of these issues for UN-Habitat. He added that since 2010, UN Habitat has a close collaboration with ECO for promoting sustainable development and mitigation of disasters in all its forms, in the region.
5. H.E. Mr. Haidari, Honorable Deputy Minister of NDMO of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan who headed the delegate of his country, called on for more effective cooperation to reduce and manage the risk of natural and man-made disasters. He also expressed that his country expects more attention and support from neighboring countries and ECO member states as well as international organizations to accelerate its activities in this field.
6. Mr. Ahmad Sadeghi, Head of Tehran Disaster Mitigation and Management Organization also outlined the activities of his

organization and measures taken in Tehran in order to mitigate the risks of disasters in the city.

Technical Sessions

7. Mr. Dr. Siamak Moghaddam, Head of UNHABITAT office in Tehran delivered his keynote presentation on "Community-based Urban Resilience". He elaborated the participants "the Pakistan Settlement Flood Recovery Project in 2010".
8. The other keynote presentation was delivered by Ms. Dr. Sulmaz Hosseinon, on ECO Priorities Programme on School Safety. He outlined the presentation on "Urban Resilience and Definitions". She underlined that the Resilience as a concept has started a long journey from several disciplines such as engineering, Psychology and ecology and has spread its use in urban and development debates.
9. Dr. Mohsen Ghafouri Ashtiani, University lecturer and head of Iran Earthquake Engineering Association, delivered his presentation on the "Risk of possible Earthquake in Afghanistan" and highlighted the "Integrated Seismic Risk Assessment Models".
10. Other lecturers presented their latest experiences and findings around relevant issues to resilience i.e., "Sustainable Development", "Financing Urban Regeneration Projects", "Land Management and Readjustment", "Public Participation", "Public Private Partnership", "Slum Upgrading Program", "Earthquake Protection Measures", "Structural Hazard Mitigation" and "Multi-Hazard Resilience of None-Structural Elements".
11. The participants were also engaged in collective learning by conducting bilateral talks and presenting their personal experiences.

Closing Session

12. The Joint workshop on "Urban Resilience, Habitat Improvement, Disaster Risk Management and Built Environment" concluded with remarks extended by Ambassador, Bicakli, Deputy Secretary General of ECO and Mr. Moghaddam, head of Habitat Office in Tehran. The co-chairs appreciated the three-day

deliberations and commended the valuable sources of information received from the statements and reports presented at the meeting and the outcomes of the breakout group discussions.

13. In the certificate awarding ceremony the participants also extended their thanks to the ECO Secretariat and Habitat office for organizing this workshop while expressed their hope for continued organization of these workshops for relevant decision makers, education sectors and stakeholders dealing with Disaster Risk Reduction.

Day-long Visits

14. On 14 November, the participants also paid a visit to some historical building which are retrofitted and re-generated by Municipality of Tehran and Habitat.