

Your Excellencies, Honorable Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honored to have an opportunity to introduce this seminar to distinguished officials, sophisticated scholars and experienced practitioners in the field of development, gathered here from all over the world. This seminar concludes the seminar series on the occasion of the 40th Annual Meeting; let me express my sincere gratitude to all of you who have decided to participate in this seminar after surviving a number of meetings over the weekend.

This seminar is about “Asian-Tailored Technology for Integrated Disaster Risk Management” and the key concept is the necessity of developing community-based participatory management for disaster reduction in Asia. We will discuss: (i) the idea of “Implementation Technology” which stands for the integration and utilization of available pieces of technologies for local people, (ii) challenges for community-based management and (iii) a possible framework for participatory disaster risk management in Asia.

In other words, we would like to address key questions that include:
“What makes disaster management difficult?”
“What is required to link the administration, communities and donors to each other?”
“How can implementation know-how be effectively shared within and among communities?”
“Who can play the role of a catalyst in sharing implementation know-how?”

I truly believe that this seminar will be constructive, as it is designed to encourage discussions from both theoretical and practical viewpoints. Also, I hope that today’s discussions will be a building block on which practical actions could be formulated in actually implementing “Asian-Tailored Technology for Integrated Disaster Risk Management.”

Let me conclude by wishing all of you a productive and meaningful discussion. I would like to stop here and invite Mr. Atsumi to start the session. Thank you very much.