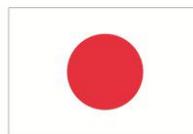


PRESS RELEASE



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UNDP, Government of Japan Support to Strengthen Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Capacities in Tajikistan

Dushanbe, 07 September, 2016 – The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Governments of Tajikistan and Japan signed today a new, four year project that is expected to benefit people in Tajikistan and Afghanistan (Badakhshan, Takhar and Kunduz Provinces) through strengthening the two countries' disaster risk reduction and response capacities and the promotion of cross-border cooperation with Afghanistan to improve disaster response in line with the call under the latest “*Central Asia plus Japan*” Dialogue.

The \$10.6 million project envisages support to the Government of Tajikistan in undertaking a nation-wide risk assessment, establishment and implementation of risk reduction measures, improvement of early warning and disaster management planning, preparedness and response, as well as strengthen capacities of search and rescue teams.

UNDP Country Director, Jan Harfst, stated: “*We are confident that this project will strengthen capacities of Committee of Emergency Situations in disaster risk reduction and early warning areas and promote cooperation between Committee of Emergency Situations and Afghan National Agency for Disaster Management as well as other stakeholders*”.

Speaking at the signing ceremony H.E. Mr. Hajime Kitaoka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Tajikistan said: “*This project has a special importance for me, because this is an assistance from Japan to Tajikistan, both of which are very much disaster prone*”. Ambassador of Japan recognized Tajikistan's increasingly important role in ensuring resilience and sustainability in the region and stressed Japan's commitment to support it.

The Chairman of Committee of Emergency Situations, Rustam Nazarzoda, noted the government's leadership in shaping and finding consensus for ground breaking agreements on the Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and said: “*The signing of this project is a factor in strengthening and development of international cooperation between our countries and UNDP*”.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Tajikistan, Sirojiddin Aslov, stated: “*On behalf of Government of Tajikistan I would like to thank Government of Japan and UNDP authorities for supporting disaster risk management in Tajikistan. I find today's event as an important contribution to Tajikistan in the lead up to 25th anniversary of Tajikistan's Independence*”.

The project “Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Capacities” is based on the priority areas identified in the “*Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)*” and the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy pursued in Tajikistan since 2010.

UNDP will work with Tajikistan's Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, the Agency of Hydrometeorology, the Department of Geology, the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority and local authorities, with broad community participation.



Mr. Hajime Kitaoka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Tajikistan (left), Mr. Jan Harfst, UNDP Country Director (center) and Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, CoES Chairman (right) at the project signing ceremony.

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