

**Post-Disaster Rehabilitation:
The Experience of the Asian Development Bank**

*Paper prepared for presentation at:
IDNDR-ESCAP Regional Meeting for Asia: Risk Reduction and Society in
the 21st Century
Bangkok, 23-26 February 1999*

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1. Introduction

1. The Asia-Pacific region is subject to about 60% of major natural disasters worldwide, resulting in losses of US\$5-10bn per annum and enormous human suffering. Between 1972 and 1996, an average 127 million people in Asia and Oceania were affected by natural and technological disasters each year whilst slightly over 46,000 people were killed, 55,000 injured and 4.2 million made homeless (IFRC, 1998).

2. Disasters can also have potentially serious economic implications, both for individual households and national economies. For example, they can result in widescale damage to infrastructure, productive assets and crops. They can also create severe budgetary and balance-of-payments difficulties. At a more micro-level, hazard vulnerability and poverty are mutually reinforcing and poorer households are particularly vulnerable to hazards.

3. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has extended a number of loans in the area of disaster mitigation and post-disaster rehabilitation, together totaling over US\$2bn. During the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), the Bank has also participated in several major conferences - namely, the 1991 meeting in

Note: The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Asian Development Bank.