



Decreasing Mortality by Promoting School Building Resilience in I.R.Iran

Ladies and gentlemen:

I am delighted to have the opportunity to participate in this ceremony, on behalf of DRES organization of IRAN and let me express my gratitude toward UNISDR which highlights and promotes the importance of Disaster risk reduction issues, through hosting phenomenal global events such as biennial SASAKAWA ceremonies. First, let me provide a brief report on the crucial measures taken by the organization for Development, Renovation and Equipping Schools of Iran (DRES). The more comprehensive reports have been prepared by DRES committee members and will be available for other countries and interested researchers as well.

DRES Organization as a subset organization of the Ministry of Education, the highest and the only governmental authority for development, renovation and equipping of Iranian Schools, was established in 1975 and started its work in 1976. This state organization consists of a central office and 31 local offices in the provinces of I.R. Iran.

Regarding the three pillars of Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools (WISS), I.R. Iran has been developed national targets and indicators for comprehensive school safety implementation to promote unsafe situation in educational centers through the country.

The Parliament of I.R. Iran passed a Law of Schools in 2005 allocating US\$4.5 billion to ensure that 95,000 schools and 13 million students would be kept safe from disaster. An additional US\$3 billion was committed in 2016 to complete their program over the next five years for renovation and retrofitting of unsafe schools (2017-2022). Other strong financial support has been secured by private sector donors



supplementing public funds due to cultural support for safe schools in Iran. For example in 2014, the amount of US\$ 400 million from public and private sector had been allocated to safe school.

Accordingly, Iran has made outstanding and impressive record of reducing schools vulnerability to more than two-third between 2006-2016. Iran's Safe Schools program indicated that during initial assessments 67% of schools were found to be unsafe and requiring additional retrofitting or reconstruction. The program began in 2006 and 83% of the work has been completed and the remaining will be finished in the next several years.

Iran's approach included significant research and development of guidelines and codes for construction and retrofitting of new and existing school buildings. An innovative action has been used by DRES is developing a program to prioritize the needs for retrofitting or reconstructing by considering various factors including costs, quality and expected useful time-life of the school building to responsibly spend the generous dollars allocated by the parliament and private donors for safe school buildings. Additionally, they developed time and budget algorithms which considered the many factors influencing the decision-making process.

They consulted over twenty national and international building codes and regulations regarding earthquake resistant design including those from AISC, ASCE, FEMA and other architectural resources. Also US\$ 1 billion has been allocated for the standardization of the heating system and energy efficiency by 2020.

Donor's contributions from the private sector, private foundations, charity organizations and individuals as an innovative practice engaging public and private sector can be considered as a role model for other countries.



The cost-effective actions of Iran's investment with 5400 renovated and retrofitted schools have great consequences in safety level of schools that were the only ones that sustained the recent earthquakes in Iran. During this process approximately 10 million square meters of buildings construction area retrofitted, reconstructed and renovated. So, life safety of Iranian student was only 33% in 2006 while this factor in 2016 was increased to 70 %. Based on the survey was conducted to evaluate the post-earthquake condition, no damage was observed in newly constructed schools.

The concept of building resilience in Iranian education and training courses that led to students' improved awareness to shape their safe future.

Iran's significant achievements, technical expertise and innovative approaches in implementation of school safety have the potential to motivate and guide other countries.

In the end, I should mention that DRES would welcome any sort of scientific cooperation and technical activities with other nations, regarding the retrofitting and safety provision for educational institutions.

Thank you for your attention.

For more information, visit our website:

(<http://www.dres.ir/safeschool/Pages/Index.aspx>)

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