Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation:

Third Session: Small Island Developing States: Transport and Trade Logistics Challenges

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Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

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Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

• Towards a climate and disaster risk reduction programme
• Foster sustainable development as a follow-up to Samoa and Sendai
• Action to reduce risk and catastrophic events: a high regional priority
• To be effective, need to enlarge focus to cover whole DRR spectrum
• Operational activities for DRR and ACC must be closely integrated while preserving the separate identity of constituencies

What is the ISLANDS Financial Protection Program?

• A ground-breaking regional program to help 4 IOC islands deal with catastrophic risk, by transferring modern technology to local experts
• Developed with EU financing in close collaboration with key external specialists: UNISDR and World Bank
• A tool kit for the specific needs of each island, offering better predictive tools to identify future risks and calculate their likely economic impacts
• Outputs: accurate economic loss data base; realistic risk profiles; guidance for effective development policies; guidance for risk investment and budgetary policies
New Climatic and Disaster Risk Reduction Program

• A major shift in thinking over the past decade: “in order for development activities to be sustainable they must reduce risk”

• DRR and CCA activities concern the population as a whole: NGO’s, the business community, emergency teams

• A holistic approach: Risk Identification; Risk Reduction; Financial Protection; Preparedness; Post-disaster Reconstruction

• Particular attention to infrastructure reinforcement and protection of critical infrastructure

Distinctive features of Program

DRR’s acquired experience is institutionalized and incorporated into a structured and solid base:

• Separate units: DRR; ACC; communication unit; under one director

• Regional Platform to associate all countries: need for a coordinated approach; a hosting agency in each country

• Precise work program focusing on key activities with measurable goals, indicators of success

• Selecting specialized institutions to benefit from corporate knowledge and backstopping (example of UNISDR in ISLANDS)

• Emphasis on transfer of knowledge and expertise to locals.
In conclusion ...

• Need for small scientific and technical capacity for backstopping: the issue in the context of distant islands
• Problem of coordinated approach from donors including UN funds: who are the local contacts?
• The challenge of sustainability
• Mastering information age technology: use of open source tools: critical infrastructure. Needed but who pays for it?

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