KEYNOTE ADDRESS: "Building Disaster Resilient Societies: JICA’s Experience around the World"

ABSTRACT: As a country that has a long history of being affected by various disasters, Japan has incorporated Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) considerations into its development plans and investments in order to reduce the impact of disasters. The approach of Japan has been to learn lessons by examining the impact of disasters and installing more resilient systems to mitigate potential future damage.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is the development agency of the Government of Japan which carries out cooperation activities around the world. Thus, naturally JICA’s approach has been to continuously extend cooperation in the field of DRR rooted in the Japanese experience with the aim to build capacities of developing countries to cope with disasters as a means to achieve sustainable development. Mr. Takeya will introduce several case studies and the solutions implemented.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY: Mr. Kimio Takeya has 40 years of experience working in the field of disaster management and is currently a Visiting Senior Advisor working on Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). He has been closely involved in numerous JICA projects conducting disaster recovery needs assessments and formulating recovery policy. These efforts include work on the Sumatra Tsunami Recovery Assessment 2004, Central Java Island Earthquake Recovery Assessment, Reconstruction of Yogyakarta Special Province, and the Post 3.11.11 Japanese Tsunami lessons learned study. From 2009-2011, he served as the Senior Disaster Management Specialist for water related disasters within the Sustainable Infrastructure Division of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He has served on the ground in other recovery efforts including being dispatched by the Asian Development Bank as a member of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment Team (PDNA) for the Philippine’s Manila Ondoy Flood in 2009 and Pakistan Indus River Flood in 2010. He also served as a member of the ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment Team (ERAT) for the Thailand Chao Phraya River Flood in 2011, JICA PDNA team-member and representative to the Strategic Formulation Committee for Water Resource Management of Thailand chaired by the Prime Minister.

PHOTO: Collaborating with Thai Officials to mainstream DRR policies.