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I hope most of you had the chance to eat the lunch that was provided in HNHM, the bento boxes.

They are distributed in case of disaster. So you were basically eating food for after the disaster. So how good was that? It was great, no? A couple of announcements. If you haven't gone smoking, I'm sure not all of you are smokers.

But beside the smoking area, there is a truck from the Hyogo Prefecture that simulates earthquakes. It's amazing. It's really, really good. So I encourage you not to smoke, but to try the truck. So as we are learning another word, by today you have already around seven.

The word of this afternoon is yuki. Yuki. Have you had lunch, man? Come on, yuki. Perfect. It means courage. It means going and passing these adversities. So today we are going to hear from mayors that have to have the courage to stand in front of many challenges.

But I want to announce also that after this plenary, we are going to have way more sessions. So if you want to take a picture, do it now. One, two, three. And here's your map to get on time to your session, please.

And now to introduce the panel, I won Z Chen from the World Bank. We're competing who is going to be more time on the stage. Thank you, Juan.

Thank you. Good afternoon. I'm not going to say much. I think there will be going to be a very interesting panel discussion of the mayors, but I do want to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Mayor Kyomoto for hosting us and also to share with us his experience in managing urban, urban city environment in face of this disaster risk.

I'm very honored to be here to say a few words. I think we all know that urbanization is a continued trend. We already have more than 50% of the population living in cities and this will continue to increase in the coming years.

And this kind of urbanization is posting both an opportunity because urban is a center of economic activities and jobs and growth, but it's also creating risk and vulnerability that we all need to manage.

And we also understand that climate change is not a distant future. The impact is there are different elements of managing these challenges, but I think some of those experience I think our mayor is going to share with us, but I think as a number of common features is really, first of all, we need to build resilient infrastructure in urban settings.

And second is really community engagements. We need to bring our stakeholders together and of course we can bring innovations. Again, this is reflecting the key theme of these conferences about traditions, about resilience, about innovations.

I will only take this opportunity to mention that from the World Bank Group, we consider ourselves a strong partner with all the cities around the world, really supporting you and sharing knowledge and providing critical finances in supporting the city resilience agendas in face of these climate -related disasters or some of them are non -climate related disasters.

GFDR, which you are very familiar with now, of course, in addition to hosting these events, but also is a facility to provide technical assistance, connecting practitioners, providing knowledge, but also informing our World Bank finances in terms of supporting your needs.

I think that's the setting of this afternoon's roundtable. With that, I want to thank you for your participation and I pass on to our moderators. Thank you.

Thank you very much, Guan, for the very nice introduction. This afternoon, I have the honor of sharing this stage with three honorable mares from different parts of the world. So first, I would like to introduce our mares who will speak today.

First of all, it's my honor to introduce Mayor Hideyasu Kiyomoto, the esteemed mayor of our whole city, Himaji. APPLAUSE Mayor Kiyomoto, thank you very much for your generosity and hospitality in hosting this event in your charming city.

We all love Himaji. We sincerely appreciate your welcoming us here. Mayor Kiyomoto is currently serving his second term, having first been elected in April 2019 and re -elected in April 2023. Before his tenure as mayor, he had a distinguished medical career.

He graduated from Kagawa Medical University with a medical degree in 1988 and earned his PhD in medicine in 1992. Throughout his career, Mayor Kiyomoto has held various positions at Kagawa Medical University and Kotohoku University and served as program officer at the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development.

He also gained valuable international experience as research fellow at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. So thank you very much, Mayor, for being here with us today. The second, I'm also pleased to introduce our next mayor, is Mayor Luisa Sargero.

She's the president of City Council and Mayor of Matosinos, Portugal. Mayor Sargero is the president of National Association of Municipalities of Portugal, making a historic achievement as the first woman to hold this esteemed position.

Her remarkable public service career began in 1997 when she became a counselor for the municipality. She further distinguished herself in 2005 by being elected as a deputy in the Assembly of the Republic.

In 2017, she assumed the role of Mayor of Matosinos. During her time in the National Assembly, Mayor Sargero served on several parliamentary commissions and was elected vice president of NATO's Commission for Energy and Environment Security.

So welcome, Mayor, and thank you for attending this session. And the third mayor, I would like to introduce Mayor Hadianto Rasid of Palau, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. Hadianto has been serving as a mayor since February 2021.

Prior to becoming mayor, Hadianto was a member of both the Palau City Regional Legislative Council and the Central Sulawesi Regional Legislative Council. As the mayor of Palau, he has brought the vision of Palau moving forward to life, focusing on rebuilding the city after the devastating 2018 earthquake tsunami and the liquefaction disasters, as well as navigating the challenges of the COVID -19 pandemic.

Under his leadership, the Palau City government has received several awards from the national government, including the Second Best Regional Development Award nationally in both 2023 and 2024, presented by the president of the Republic.

So before we start our panel, please allow me to give some initial remarks to frame the discussions. Cities around the world are becoming bigger and more densely populated and more interconnected than ever before.

The rise of cities present many new social and economic opportunities for their residents, but also exposes cities and their people, assets, natural environment, and economies to greater risks from climate change and all kinds of natural hazards.

Thank you. As you know, about 70% of the greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption in the world occur in cities. And the annual cost cities incur from weather - related and other disasters surpass billions of dollars in the last few years.

And the climate shocks and the stress are becoming more frequent and intense. In the World Bank, we have been supporting many cities around the world in improving their resilience to all kinds of natural disasters and climate change.

And this has been a major growing engagement for us across the portfolio. And within GFDR, we have a lot of programs to support cities such as our city resilience program that helps cities become more resilient to provide risk -informed urban planning tools.

So in this new reality, city mayors play an increasingly pivotal role in partnering to ensure urban resilience and disaster resilience and the safety of their constituents in changing city environment.

So mayors must lead strategic policy and investment decisions for urban planning and development, infrastructure, natural and green assets and regulation. They must also work with very tight budget, seek partnerships for funding for their financing needs.

So I look forward to learning from you all about these critical challenges. Now, we will need to change a little bit of the program because the mayor for Palau needs to go to catch a flight back to, I think, Thailand.

So he cannot stay for the whole session. So with that, I will ask Mayor Hadian to a ratio from Palau, Indonesia, to first to give his introductory remarks. Let's welcome the mayor.

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My distinguished Vice World Bank. Of course, all ladies and gentlemen that are attending in this forum, let me introduce myself, just a little. I came from Palo and I'm a mayor now.

Palo is located in Indonesia. This is a small city in the central province of Sulawesi. Probably Palo starting to recognize by everybody when the disaster happened in this city. Because the disaster happened in the city, it's not common disaster.

Because when earthquake hit the Palo, it's followed by a second phenomenal situation. There is a tsunami, a tsunami that's common in Japan. But one thing that is more and more terrible thing is the liquefaction.

The liquefaction is where our two sub -districts in Palo, that sank by the land. And each of the sub -districts, the white area around 187 hectares. And the second is around 60 hectares, that sank by the land after the earthquake.

So what happened? Of course, the damage of this disaster is very terrible. Because the devastation is so huge, so huge. Many, many houses get damaged because of it. So the infrastructure and many things, especially if we're talking about the victims, all of that, it's touched about 3 ,000 people died because of it.

And when I met Mr. Louis yesterday, Mr. Louis told me that the rehabilitation and reconstruction that's undertaken by World Bank in Central Sulawesi, especially in Palo, that was a Besamong project that's undertaken by World Bank.

Am I happy with that? Yeah, I'm happy, but that's enough. But that's not enough because of what? Because the tragedy, the disaster already happened. And it causes many, many, many, many, many, many problems.

Such a damage, like I told you, the victims and so many, and so many others. So I'm not happy with that, but so this is time for me to share to you all in this special moment that now we have to think, we have to think how to prepare everything better than before the disaster happened.

Because when it's happened, so we will, what is it? We will pay more than when we make a good prevention before the disaster. So if you're talking about the collaboration, yeah, we cannot stand alone with this thing.

So I imagine sometimes what if the World Bank's not give a loan to Indonesia to cover this situation? How the rehabilitation and reconstruction can go faster? So I believe if this thing happened, we cannot stand alone.

So we have to join, we have to work together for it. But better not work together for it after the disaster. But better if we work together before the disaster, before the disaster.

Because if something happened with our brothers, I mean if there is a rise of victim because of that, so the victim is our brothers.

The victim was our sister. Even probably we are not in the city, we are not in this country, but everywhere because we are one. So this is a great time for me that I've been invited by the World Bank to be able to attend to this forum and to share everything.

And especially I want to say thanks to the World Bank that already give a full support for the Indonesian government, especially to my city, to rebuild again my city with a better, built better before.

And ladies and gentlemen, before I'm leaving this forum, I want to tell you all, you know, when disaster happened, after a matter of disaster, after a matter of disaster, always the victims is women and girls.

This social problem is a happened, happened to in Indonesia, especially when Palu facing this disaster. Social problems. Social problems. What happened? There is a gender based in violation that's happened among our women, among our children.

Because of what? Because of the situation and condition. I believe all of us who are sitting here don't want this to happen to anybody, especially to the someone that closes to us. So if we agree with that, so this is time for us to think together, to work together, not just after the disaster, but how to make a work together before disaster.

Thanks for the time that have already given to me to stand up here. And probably what I'm saying this is just a little, but hopefully, yeah, it can be a good something for us. Thank you.

Thank you. Okay, now let's have on stage Mayor Keomoto from Himeji and Mayor Saugaro from Matosinos. Please join me. Please. Okay. Okay. So let me here start with our host mayor, the honorable mayor, Mr.

Kiyomoto. Could you please share a bit about the challenge you face in Himeji City in terms of climate change and the disasters? And additionally, what kind of civil protection systems has Himeji put in place to protect its residents?

Thank you.

So this city is very, you know, the rare cases, anti -disaster, because, you know, the city center, we have a beautiful castle, more than still 400 years over. There is no big earthquake. Kobe was a great big earthquake, but, you know, the 60 kilometers from here, the, you know, the shaking level was, you know, intensity four level or something like that.

So that, you know, the locks did not, you know, the so big, you know, the damages. And then we can help to the Kobe's population. And we have also river, the kind of big three rivers here. And sometimes, you know, the water, you know, the flood was happened.

But, you know, the recently, you know, we just, you know, the stop to the over -limitation levels. And then, but recently, today also, it has a heavy rain. So linear, you know, rain bounds, you know, that come, you know, rush to, because this is a monsoon area.

Philippine, Taiwan, Japan is, we'll get, might, you know, get that typhoon attack. Several, you know, the flood was happened. So in an ordinary, usually, we, you know, predict how the big, you know, the flood levels and then, you know, getting the, you know, the river maker deeper, something like that.

And then for the protective, you know, populations, you know, the human life, you know, the alert system by using, you know, the silence or, you know, speakers, every small community, more than 300, you know, in this city, we have a small community.

More than 60 or 70 around. And then, however, you know, the summer tummies, silence a lot. And then, everybody get the received, you know, the, a lot of information from their, you know, the handy phone or a cell phone.

So that, you know, always, you know, the evacuated areas push out the information to the population. And then, you know, actually, we are very happy. Not so big, you know, the CBR, earthquake, flood, still we didn't get.

So, but, you know, now we rescue always sending the, you know, the officers or some, you know, the people or volunteer to that, you know, earthquake area. And then getting that knowledge, we share the community, something like that.

Thanks a lot, Mayor. Some very important points, you mentioned, the importance of the earthquakes, but also with the climate change, more flooding is happening. You're strengthening your flood protection systems.

You have the what we call early warning system, not the sirens, speakers, getting the communities involved early, so when the disaster happens, so they can get prepared or warned. So all these important measures.

Thank you, Mayor. And let me turn to Mayor Luisa Sao -Garro. So I understand Matosinho is the 20th largest city in Portugal, but it's also first city to be recognized as making cities resilient to 2030 campaign resilience hub.

You have hosted a European forum for disaster reduction. So what are the key climate and disaster challenges do you face in Portugal's north coast, and how has Matosinho become such a leader in advancing this urban resilience agenda?

Well, thank you. Good afternoon, everybody. First of all, I'd like to say that it's quite an honor for us to stay here in IMEGY and to come from Europe to share our experience with you and also to learn so much with this country and this city.

That is an international example in civil protection and to know personally the mayor of IMEGY. Then just to say that Matuzing is the seventh biggest city, municipality in Portugal. We are a small city comparing with Japanese municipalities.

We have 175 ,000 inhabitants and only 60 square kilometers, so we are very dense and small. But we face the same challenges as other coastal municipalities. We have around 16 kilometers of coastal line, and of course we face the climate change challenges such as coastal erosion, sea level rise, and urban floods and heavy rains.

And despite these natural challenges, we also face industrial situations and risks because we host the oil refinery, commercial harbor, and also the road lines and the lines that cross our municipality that every day transport as are those goods.

So there's quite the dangers and risks in our territory, and people are looking at national government for us, such how could we deal with so many problems. So what we did in the first moment was to change our local civil protection services, and there's only a leadership and only a services where all the fire departments can answer together so everyone can call the same number, and there's an organization, a shared services where everybody has their teams and we are working together.

But of course, for natural problems, we are very committed with the scientific solutions. And we work together with different stakeholders, mainly universities. So we are collecting, for many, many years, all the information about the evolution of the sand in our coast.

And we have two kind of problems. Some beaches, we have erosion, and other, we are getting more and more sand. So it's a small territory with different problems. And we are sharing it with all our community in order to make everybody involved.

About the problems with urban floods and heavy rains, we have an example of urban gardens, more than 300 urban, small urban gardens that have been used for agriculture. That involves all the community and our new answer that we are facing, that we are using.

And also, we are the first municipality, Portuguese municipality, to approve the new general urban plan. And we decided that any construction must have at least 20% of areas that are not water -proving in order to assure that rain would have the chance to go inside.

So that kind of natural -based solutions that we are using also in our coasts have been recognized for the national government and for our partners, such as United Nations, that we are doing the right path in order to have all the solutions.

These are the problems that main cities or municipalities that have these coastal situations are facing. The difference between us that made us become the first Portuguese resilience hub that the United Nations have been recognizing us is because we were the first to change, to transform, the way that we organize the service.

We have one, only service, and we are committing everybody. We open a awareness academy, so everyone has been teaching and getting skills in order to know how to act in case of an earthquake or the floods and working with everybody, children, old people.

I think that this is a problem for every citizen. We understand that every citizen counts as part of our team. And this kind of strategy made us more capable to take the right political decisions. Because we have all the data that we have been collecting from 80 years, and we are now planning the next 10 years using all this scientific information, using geographic -based information tools.

So we believe that we are going in the right way, including, of course, every day we have a new challenge, but we think that we are doing the best with the commitment of everybody. The local level, the regional level, the national level, and we are leading by the example because Matuzinhos has been recognized as the most innovative municipality in these policies.

Thank you very much. This is very inspiring, Mayor, to hear how the range of activities you're working on this. I think the issue you mentioned, like coastal resilience, the coastal change with climate change and how you adapt to it, this is faced by many, many countries.

I think especially I'm very impressed with the way you do using nature -based solutions really to deal with urban flooding issues. I think this is something that most of our cities are experiencing, intense flooding level.

I think this is the way you point a way to do it. We used to focus a lot on the drainage system to let the water flow out, but we forget that nature actually can absorb a lot of water. So in the planning you said 20% of the surface needs to be water -penetrable, using the urban parks, urban gardens to retain the water.

These are really important things that a lot of cities need to do to increase the urban resilience. Thank you for sharing the ideas, things, what you do. I'm going to ask another question. If people on the floor have some questions, maybe you can stand.

We may have time for two questions from the floor. So with the change, one of the things I think for cities on the resilience side is to manage uncertainty. You cannot plan what's going to happen this year.

A lot of unexpected things happen. Probably the only thing you know for certain is something is going to happen, you know what's going to happen. So as mayor, how do you get prepared to deal with this kind of uncertainty?

I'm trained as an urban planner, but these are the things you cannot plan. So how do you deal with the uncertainty, especially I think it's more and more with the climate change, with the disasters you face more often?

Any ideas like what are you doing on this working on the uncertainty?

Actually, our protective plan against disaster is a little bit old because based on the rainfall for statistical data is must be changed recently 10, 20 years. So we always provided the load or the river and safety place or something.

Everything recalculated again, large scale, the linear rain belts, typhoon size became bigger than bigger year by year. So please look at the center picture of that. But it's a northern territory of our city, just adjacent to the city area.

And then in the mountain side, there is no big river, but like a bottom of the bowl, and then mountain area gather so many water and come down into like this. And seems spear the lake and so many people was the drone.

And then recently Japan, the flat place, changed to the farm to the houses or companies. So if the farmers area, we grew the rice so that water can be accept abundant water sometimes. But we recently build a race track for horse, became in occasion of the big rainfall.

And then it was stored in a huge amount of water and then protect to the houses was attacked to the flood. So after it was completed four years ago, and then after that, around the castle, no water ups level.

So maybe it's a recalculated and analysis of the climate data has been updated. And also now we are facing to the coastal side is a big earthquake. Maybe the happen to Japan, southern part, rough shaking.

Maybe 70 to 80 percent of the occassionaries will be happen. So we protect the wall against the coast and then evacuating the tower we built. Fortunately, Himeji has a small islands, 40 small islands in just in front of our city.

But it was covered inland sea. So maybe the three meter is enough. It's a recalculated again. So that is a typhoon level. But other city like Kobe, Osaka must be protecting the wall and sometimes gate wall to the river should be rebuilt again.

So we always update the data about the climate or earthquake prediction. That is important. And then we have to spread the information to the citizens. That is also so that the evacuees test are very important.

So every year we make an evacuation test for, you know, widely in a community.

Thank you. Thank you, Mayor. So there's a lot of things there, but also particularly the calculation, the parameters different, the planning parameters we used is not, we need to update. We say usually we have like a 100 -year event that seems to be happening every year or every five years instead of every 100 years.

So we need to do more. Mayor, how do we deal with the uncertainty?

Well, I believe that in order to reduce that unpredictability, we must plan. The answer is planning and to involve everybody. So each person knows what to do in case of a disaster or a crisis. And in our case, we approved the action plan for sustainable energy and climate, and also the plan for combat climate change and the forest defense plan.

And we are working very hard on SDGs. We know that our index of SDGs is 76%, so it's in a high level. And we are the same commitment with the national government in order to be always improving and increasing.

And our goal is to be carbon neutral in 2030. The national goal is 2045. We anticipated for 2030, so everyone must know very precisely this role in the plans. And if we have all this, the capacity to preview all these difficult situations, I think that despite all this climate change that we are facing, we can have some kind of cohesion and some kind of predictability.

So in each situation, we know who should act, how should act, and what to do. And that is the only key to solve this problem that the planet every day presents us.

Thank you, thanks a lot, Mayor. So we need to do more plan, better plan, to deal with the uncertainties. So, and it's also really congratulate, Mayor, the cities at the forefront of climate change mitigation.

You know, instead of 2045, you try to be carbon neutral by 2030. So this is worldwide, you're leading the way for climate change.

Local authorities are leading the way for the climate change.

Thank you so much, Mayor. So, when running out of time, I just want to say, you know, really want to thank the mayor's for sharing the experience. I think the main thing is the climate change impact, it's not happening in the future.

It's already happened. It's happening now. And the citizens are feeling it. The mayor's are dealing with it. They are in the front lines. So, really, thank you so much. Thank you so much for sharing the experience.