

Thank you for the kind invitation. I am honored and humbled to the opportunity to give a presentation at this high level panel.

The comments I will be making today are based on my humanitarian background. I have been working in the field of humanitarian assistance for over 23 years. One of my early-day missions was in the Former Yugoslav countries. It was early 90's and we served for refugees and internally displaced people. What we learned there was that dignity and strength surely exist within those who seemingly vulnerable. We also saw how easily one careless distribution of unified materials could take their dignity away and discourage them to take initiative of their own lives. Therefore, we have been emphasizing the importance of supporting self-reliance from the phase of emergency. Many people have criticized that self-reliance is for the phase of development, or at the earliest, in the transitional phase. However from the experience, we also learned that the earlier they are involved, the earlier they will become self-reliant.

There are 4 points I would like to make sure to be included in the global compact of safe, orderly and regular migration. Some of these may have already been thoroughly discussed. But, it is always better to emphasize important things repeatedly. They are;

1. **Mainstreaming environment and climate change in promoting safe, orderly and regular migration.** I would like to express my appreciation to IOM's efforts on this. Disasters affect those who are vulnerable more severely. Thus, it will require more resources for them to recover from the damage. If such resources will be allocated for the vulnerable people before disasters hit them, they might be able to become providers of assistance, rather than recipients once a disaster occurs.
2. **To tackle with root causes and prevention.** I also highly appreciate that IOM has been emphasizing the importance of peace and development. It also aligns with one of the conclusions of the World Humanitarian Summit, prevent and/or end conflict. Each individual in disaster affected areas are no less capable of supporting themselves, if such disasters did not occur. It is extremely important for the damage of disasters to be minimized so that they will not be forced to migrate due to adverse drivers.
3. **Migrants and potential migrants are the first stakeholders.** Tackling root causes requires local knowledge. Therefore, it is totally natural for them to be included in not only implementation of projects, but also in all the processes, including strategy making, planning, monitoring, evaluation and researches. Since they are the owner of their lives, when they are included in all the phases, the projects will be more efficient and productive, and the result will be to the point and sustainable. Because their background varies, we must make special efforts to include people with various backgrounds, such as women, minorities, physically and mentally challenged. Needless to mention, they are the owner of their problems as well as precious resources.
4. **Nexus beyond collaboration is the key for innovation.** All the stakeholders must come together and produce innovative solutions to fundamental issues. Currently, humanitarian need is the

largest since WWII. In 2015, UN was able to raise only 55% of fund against it appealed for humanitarian needs. And unfortunately, the number of people in need is not decreasing. Insufficient fund may not affect quality, but definitely the quantity of assistance. That unfortunately increases the vulnerability of those who had been already vulnerable. The on-going way of humanitarian assistance will not be able to fulfill the objective of assisting to satisfy basic human needs. Therefore, innovative solutions are in desperate need. The actors on the ground are also diversifying. Therefore, closer tie amongst all the stakeholders need to be developed and the innovation are eagerly sought for.

For closing, I would like to share our experience of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake.

The earthquake hit large areas. Due to tsunami, huge area was damaged. Many depopulated towns and villages were included. Those villages had already had various problems in relation to depopulation. The tsunami even more expedited depopulation. Therefore, it was obvious that even if they recovered all the materials they lost, they would not have been able to rebuild the same lives they had, without tackling the fundamental problems they had from before the earthquake. In other words, the earthquake and tsunami forced them to face the existing problems. Innovation was desperately in need.

Japan Platform (JPF) is a consortium of 47 Japanese NGOs where I served as a co-president for 5 years from the time of the earthquake. The majority of member NGOs of JPF was scattered throughout the earthquake/tsunami affected areas and worked with local community. We faced the same agenda, innovation. Therefore, starting from 2014, JPF held humanitarian innovation forum, involving various stakeholders, including local people. This undertaking had been adopted by Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) and now, many innovation workshops are held in various parts of Asia, including earthquake affected Nepal.

Without innovation, we will not be able to serve for the need of vulnerable people and I believe that we can make innovation happen.