



## Official Statement

**2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

**May 26, 2017, Cancun**

Mr. Chair, Your Excellences, Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen,

This is a great honor for me to deliver the statement on behalf of Iwate University, Japan at this floor today. My name is Katsumi Matsuoka, Professor of Iwate University.

Sendai Framework in 2015 specifically indicated Priority 4 that “Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction” Iwate University has been supporting this priority 4 for action even before the Sendai Framework formed as the one of the national universities located at the area heavily damaged by 2011 East Japan Great Disaster. Moreover, the University has been conducting actual measurements together with regional and local governments, local stakeholders, and local people to enhance disaster management, crisis leadership, and disaster risk reduction practices by providing professional supports to community, conducting training programs, and organizing DRR conferences.

On those our activities and experience, we would like to highlight, at the time of an emergent crisis, that strong leadership at local governments and communities is crucial. After 2011, Japan has undergone numbers of natural disasters with large scale victims and damages such as the Earthquake in Kumamoto and deadly Typhoon flood in northern Iwate Prefecture. Each time, we have identified the significance of strong leadership and surge capacity of top leaders of local governments.

Mr. Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Iwate University advocates to enhance the mechanism of capacity, leadership and competency of top leaders of local and national governments. For the promotion of Build Back Better in the afflicted area such as the City of Rikuzentakata that is one of the most severely affected by 2011 Tsunami Disaster in Japan, the Iwate University has reached out to establish “Rikuzentakata Global Campus (RTGC)” in a collaboration between its city government and other universities. RTGC is utilized for everyone in the world as a vibrant platform to exchange people and information and research in the area of disaster management, crisis leadership, resilient urban planning, and community development. It also purports to provide an advanced practical program on disaster management based on the actual experiences of the earthquake and tsunami for top leaders of local and national governments.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere invitation to you all in this floor to the Rikuzentakata Global Campus. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Katsumi MATSUOKA  
Professor, Iwate University, JAPAN