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20-03-2018 | 10:03 am



Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog said that climate change has aggravated disaster risk.

NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Dr. Rajiv Kumar on Monday inaugurated the First India-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction in New Delhi. The two-day workshop is being jointly

organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs, National Disaster Management Authority and Government of Japan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog underlined the synergy between the two ancient Asian civilizations of India and Japan, both of which have frequently witnessed the fury of natural catastrophes and are investing proactively on mainstreaming risk reduction into development.

He said that this workshop "marks the beginning of the formal implementation of the initiatives agreed under the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the two countries on Disaster Risk Reduction in September 2017".

While underlining the impact of the disaster on development, Dr. Rajiv Kumar stated that uncontrolled development without proper disaster risk assessment has increased the risk of losses from disasters. He added that climate change has further aggravated the disaster risk. "Therefore, disaster risk management can no longer remain isolated from the overall strategy of sustainable development", he said.

Recalling commitments made in Sendai on Disaster Risk Reduction, in Paris on Climate Change and in New York on Sustainable Development Goals, Dr Rajiv Kumar emphasized the role of country leadership for implementing the commitments particularly in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction, as returns to investment are not easily visible.

He said that "Disaster Risk Reduction should be seen not as a cost to economic growth, but rather as a valuable asset for the country".

The Vice Minister for Policy Coordination in the Cabinet Office, Japan, Mamoru Maekawa, thanked the Government of India for hosting this Workshop, which is the first outcome of the Memorandum of Cooperation regarding Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). He shared the Japanese experiences of DRR policies, including legal and planning framework, and discussed how Japan is preparing against mega-scale disasters, in collaboration with government, academia, private companies and citizens.

He concluded that Japan and India could collaborate for the implementation of the Sendai Framework so as to contribute to Disaster Risk Reduction globally.

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