Opening remarks by Mr. WANG Guangyuan. Deputy-Director of Bilateral Division of Department of International Cooperation and Rescue, Ministry of Emergency Management of China

CJK Education and Training Institutes Online Workshop
"Tools and Technologies for Earthquake Risk Management: Sharing Experience from Northeast Asia"
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Dear participants,

It is a great honor for me to make an opening statement, on behalf of the Ministry of Emergency Management of China, at the CJK Education and Training Institutes Online Workshop “Tools and Technologies for Earthquake Risk Management: Sharing Experience from Northeast Asia.

Northeast Asia is the one of the most disaster prone regions in the world. To understand where we stand in preventing disaster risks, the UN General Assembly mandated the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, a key international agreement adopted in 2015 by 187 countries to reduce disaster losses by the year 2030.

A report on the findings of the midterm review finds that there has been an 80% increase in the number of people affected by disasters since 2015. While the number of people affected was rising, disasters were becoming more complex and more expensive too, with an average above $520 billion per year between 2015 and 2021, which is estimated to be significantly undervalued. At the same time, there has been no commensurate increase in funding for disaster risk reduction. No country can face disaster risks alone. It is of paramount importance to strengthen international cooperation in disaster risk reduction.

The Ministry of Emergency Management was established to deepen the reform of the Party and state institutions in 2018. The Ministry undertakes the important responsibilities of preventing and defusing major safety risks, responding to all kinds of disasters and accidents in a timely manner, shoulders the significant mission of protecting people's life and property and maintaining social stability, and manages the National Fire and Rescue Administration, the National Mine Safety Administration and the China Earthquake Administration. Over the years, we have made tremendous efforts to prevent and defuse risks and maintained the overall stability in disaster risk reduction nationwide. From 2018 to 2022, the number of fatalities and missing persons from natural disasters declined by 54.3% from the previous five years.

China, Japan and Korea have maintained sound cooperation in disaster risk reduction under the guidance of trilateral ministerial meeting on disaster management. This Workshop is a living embodiment of experience and knowledge sharing on disaster management. Our Ministry is developing the Belt and Road International Cooperation Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management (BRIDRREM), as the main platform for international cooperation in disaster risk reduction of China. The promote high-quality development of BRIDRREM, the Ministry of Emergency Management of China will host the 2023 Belt and Road Ministerial Forum for International Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management (2023 BRIDRREM Forum) in November this year, where a
spectrum of cooperation initiatives will be announced. We hope that all partners can join BRIDRREM, and work together to contribute to the capacity building of all countries.

I wish the workshop a great success. Thank you.