

**National Report of  
the People's Republic of China  
on  
Natural Disaster Reduction**

— Prepared for the IDNDR Mid-Term Review and the 1994 World  
Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction

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## FOREWORD

In the course of their own unrestrained reproduction and/or their stepped-up economic growth, human beings have in varying degrees ignored the importance of living in harmony with Nature. And now the vicious circle of the four major problems have been keenly felt, namely, the problems of population explosion, shortages of natural resources, environmental deterioration and aggravated natural disasters. These problems have posed an increasingly great menace to the very survival and growth of human beings themselves. In order to arrest and mitigate such malignant trends, the U.N. resolution launching the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) was adopted and being implemented and the U.N. Conference of Environment and Development of 1992 (UNCED) was convened – both representing an urgent call by Governments of all countries to this end, aiming at enhancing human awareness and calling for concerted actions by mankind as a whole.

Over the past decades, the losses and adverse social effects caused by natural disasters have been continually aggravating, especially in the developing countries. East Asia, South Asia and Western Pacific Sub-Region where developing countries are concentrated, are areas where most types of natural disasters and gravest disaster-afflicted losses have been recorded. As a populous developing country of this region, China has long suffered from various natural disasters. Therefore, since her founding in 1949, the People's Republic of China has progressively carried out activities to mitigate major natural disasters, such as flood, waterlogging, drought, typhoon, storm surge, blizzard, earthquake, landslide, mud-rock flows, sand-storm, soil-erosion, disease and insect pests in agriculture and forestry and forest fires, and has established relevant systems of management accordingly. In order to further improve the integrated disaster reduction awareness and the relevant capability of the whole society, China has since the early 1980s made full preparations, taken an active part in the concerted international action in disaster reduction, and formally set up China National Committee for the IDNDR in April 1989. The National Committee, in close collaboration with relevant departments and research institutions at the national, provincial and municipal levels, have made joint efforts to promote the disaster reduction undertakings. Through 5 years' efforts, there has emerged a social trend of enhanced disaster-reduction awareness and intensified actions at mitigating disasters. On the whole, however, these actions are somewhat dispersed, lacking the guidance of a national integrated planning, and the

comprehensive potentials of the existing disaster reduction capabilities have not been brought into full play. Constrained by her as yet weak economic base, China's standards of disaster preparedness and of disaster reduction are not high enough and remain to be enhanced.

Globally, human capability of predicting, forecasting, preventing and combating natural disasters is still rather weak. Therefore, to grapple with the common enemy--natural disasters--all countries should support one another and take concerted actions. Only in this way can world order and development be ensured. In this context, bearing in mind the safety and future of mankind, and in a spirit of promoting mutual assistance among countries to the best ability of each country according her level of development, the Chinese Government has exerted meticulous efforts to prepare this National Report in light of the specific conditions of China's natural disasters, characterized by their frequency, gravity and long history, and in accordance with the IDNDR requirements of National Report. As a contribution and a formal document by China to the IDNDR Mid-Term Review and to the 1994 World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, this National Report presents a comprehensive and systematic account of China's natural disasters and disaster reduction efforts, and of the nations's main experience, problems, difficulties and future work program as well as an account of China's relevant responsibility and obligations in this regard. Meanwhile, China has noted the urgency and possibility of raising the disaster reduction efficacy in East and South Asia, and of the region's role in achieving the goals of the IDNDR. Moreover, China is conscious of her historical obligations in collaborating with friendly neighbouring countries for improvement of the disaster reduction undertakings.

The preparation of this National Report, having received generous support from all relevant government departments, specialists and scholars, has made use of the latest data available and has benefited a great deal by the view and suggestions of the relevant NGOs and people of various circles.

This Report has been approved by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

It is hoped that the Report will contribute to the success of the 1994 World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction.