

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

I. Natural hazards in Republic of Korea

1.1 Natural hazards likely to affect the country

Wind storm, typhoon, flood, drought, heavy snow, extreme temperature, slide, wild fire, storm surge, yellow dust, etc. (not in severity order)

1.2 Recent major disasters

Description of recent major disasters and response activities

A. Heavy Snow from March 4 to March 6, 2005

Eastern part of the Korean peninsula was damaged with agriculture and fishery facilities causing \$21.5 million property damage.

B. Torrential Rains from August 2nd to 3rd and from August 8 to 11, 2005

Localized hourly precipitation was recorded from 15 to 71 mm in the central and western part of Korea. 15 people were dead and \$456.8 million property damage was occurred. Most of the people died because of slope-stability related disasters such as landslide. Affected people were 7,340 in 2,815 households.

C. 14th Typhoon "Nabi" from Sept. 6 to 8, 2005

The accumulative precipitation was recorded as 622.5 mm causing 6 dead and \$115.4 million property damage.

Activities for recovery and reconstruction after major disasters

A. Heavy Snow from March 4 to March 6, 2005

National parks in the area were temporary blocked and entrance of highway was discouraged. Subway operation was extended for 30 minutes. The Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters decided the recovery costs and local governments and related agencies are doing recovery work after receiving the budget.

B. Torrential Rains from August 2nd to 3rd and from August 8 to 11, 2005

Mass media such as the Korean Broadcasting Service actively participated for the disaster information dissemination. Automatic verbal notification system was activated. Recovery work is being done by the process same as above.

C. 14th Typhoon “Nabi” from Sept. 6 to 8, 2005

People in the typhoon path were evacuated, especially in the coastal area. Recovery work is being done by the process same as above.

II. Disaster Management system

2.1 Administrative system

<i>Conventional long form:</i>	Republic of Korea
<i>Conventional short form:</i>	South Korea
<i>Government type:</i>	republic
<i>Capital:</i>	Seoul
<i>Administrative divisions:</i>	9 provinces (do, singular and plural) and 7 metropolitan cities (gwangyoksi, singular and plural)

2.2 Legal system, legal framework

Laws related with natural disasters include the Natural Disaster Countermeasures Act, Act on Countermeasures against Agricultural and Fishery Disasters, Disaster Relief Act, etc. The Natural Disaster Countermeasures Act (enacted in 1995) prescribes control of and countermeasures against natural disasters such as torrential rain and typhoons, investigations of relevant damage, rehabilitation costs, etc.

The Act on Countermeasures against Agricultural and Fishery Disasters (also enacted in 1995) stipulates measures concerning prevention of and countermeasures against disasters affecting agriculture and fishery such as damage from disease, harmful pests and drought. The Disaster Relief Act (enacted in 1962) provides for relief of victims of natural disasters or calamities, etc.

From June 1, 2004 the Disaster and Safety Management Basic Law is enacted designating disaster management competent organizations based on the disaster definition, identifying the Central Safety Management Committee, establishing rapid information dissemination system, and enhancing disaster-related research functions.

2.3 Structure of disaster management

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) under the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs (MOGAHA) manages overall measures to counter natural disasters in Korea. The agency is composed of four Bureaus, i.e., Planning and Management Bureau, Mitigation and Planning Bureau, Response and Management Bureau, and Recovery and Support Bureau. In addition to the Public Information Officer, Disaster Status Control Unit, and General Services Division, Innovation and Personnel Officer, Planning and Budget Officer, and Information and Communication Officer are working under Planning and Management Officer. Mitigation and Planning Bureau has Planning Coordination Division, Civil Defense Planning Division, Fire Administration Policy Division, Technological Disaster Management Division, and Public Cooperation Division.

Response and Management Bureau includes Response Planning Division, Fire Suppression Division, Rescue and Emergency Division, and Facilities and Equipment Division. Recovery and Support Bureau has Preparedness Division, Rehabilitation Division, Technical Support Division, and Assessment Division.

On September 1, 2005 NEMA restructured its previous organization, i.e., three Bureaus, one Office, and 19 Divisions to have four Headquarters, one Center, two Offices, and twenty two Teams to cope with rapidly changing disaster environment and to execute necessary measures against emerging disasters more effectively.

NEMA takes responsibility for practical affairs for regular period. When a disaster strikes, an ad hoc organization called CDSCH forms. The Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters (CDSCH) is in charge of prevention and status control of natural disasters, as well as recovery planning, and executes necessary measures related to such disasters. The Minister of the MOGAHA heads the CDSCH while Director of NEMA serves as its vice-chief. Twenty-three personnel from 21 government organizations serve on its council. Also, the Central Safety Management Committee serves the function of providing coordination and support for the CDSCH, and the Central Emergency

Rescue Control Squad supports CDSCH when a massive search and rescue service is required.

Water resources and land use planning are managed by the Ministry of Construction and Transportation. Health, environment, education, and finance are managed by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development, and Ministry of Finance and Economy, respectively.

2.4 Priorities on disaster risk management

- 1) It is required to strengthening close cooperation in the region. It is desirable to have several practical cooperation programs and training that can yield ready-to-use outputs. Programs provided by ADPC, ADRC and other international or regional organizations need to be more actively developed and publicized.
- 2) Even when the government prepares perfect policies or organizations to reduce disaster losses, the government cannot do it alone without active participation of citizens. More public education and participation are desired. Programs to increase public awareness should be discussed as one of the top priorities in the WCDR.
- 3) Sustainable development can be defined as development that does not increase disaster potential or vulnerability. However, it is almost impossible to develop any area without disturbance. To reduce disaster factors due to development, regulations that safeguard not only developing site but also downstream should be discussed during the WCDR. The Disaster Impact Assessment system, which is currently put in force in Korea and actually reduce disaster factors, can be a good example for implementing sustainable development.
- 4) Budget for disaster reduction project is sometimes considered as a simple cost, not an investment. Methodology or strategy that can change the concept and increase disaster reduction budget needs to be addressed.

III. Disaster management plan

To cope with disasters which are taking more diverse forms and larger in scale and to define basic guidelines for the national disaster prevention policy, the government has formulated the **sixth Basic Disaster Prevention Plan Period (2002-2006)** in which "Establishment of Disaster Resistant Country" is employed as the policy concept.

From February to April each year, disaster prevention training and education programs are provided to working-level government employees in charge of disaster prevention in each province, city, county and district. With the period from the beginning of March to the end of May designated as the period of preparedness against possible disasters, disaster prevention facilities are inspected and repaired at the level of each administrative unit including province, city, county and district in a precautionary measure against disasters. During the period from March to May every year, disaster prevention training including mapping and computerized exercises along with training based on regional characteristics is carried out concurrently with civil defense drills on the basis of a simulated massive natural disaster comparable to those which actually occurred in the past.

IV. Budget size on national level

Annual regular budget for NEMA is about \$300 million. Also, several national level projects are funded. For instance, in 2003, for mountain and river control projects such as dam development, small river creeks improvement, about \$2 billion was invested in 8 projects. 13 Projects were developed in disaster prevention and countermeasures and \$1 billion was spent. For research and development in disaster risk mitigation area \$50 million was invested in 6 projects such as establishment for the National Disaster Management System, operation of Earthquake Research Center, and modernization of meteorological observation.

V. Progress and situations of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)

To promote the HFA in the region the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) is hosted by the Korean Government with the full support and guide by ADRC from March 15 to 16, 2006.

VI. Projects on disaster reduction headed by your Ministry

A. Introduction of the Steep Slope Safety Management and Disaster Reduction Act

- (1) Topic: To reduce slope-related disasters such as landslide in urban area
- (2) Actor: NEMA and NIDP
- (3) Partner: Korea Forest Service and Ministry of Construction and Transportation
- (4) Title: the Steep Slope Safety Management and Disaster Reduction Act
- (5) Contents: Definition of “the steep slope”, monitoring of the slope, countermeasures, responsibility of local governments, short- and long-term plans, data compilation, etc.
- (6) Means: Legislation and budget support
- (7) Target Year: 2006
- (8) Target Area: At least 17,907 sites prone to ground disasters in local governments
- (9) Expectation: Minimization of landslide damages in urban area
- (10) Progress: Draft bill is prepared and researches by stakeholders are in progress from 2005
- (11) Link: Highways, local roads, slopes, retaining structures, mountain areas, etc.
- (12) Others: N/A

B. Introduction of Disaster Management Capacity Assessment

- (1) Topic: To assess local governments’ management capacity and encourage improvement of disaster management system
- (2) Actor: NEMA
- (3) Partner: Local governments
- (4) Title: Assessment of local governments’ disaster management capacity

- (5) Contents: Local governments' organization, policies, funds, public relations, various countermeasures, emergency recoveries, relief, etc.
- (6) Means: Legislation and budget support
- (7) Target Year: from 2005
- (8) Target Area: Local governments nationwide
- (9) Expectation: Promote and introduction of improved management system in local governments
- (10) Progress: Provincial Government evaluated 234 local governments. NEMA evaluated 16 Provincial and Metropolitan Governments and 64 local governments in 2005
- (11) Link: Other central government's evaluation programs
- (12) Others: N/A

VII. ADRC Counterpart

Headquarters of Recovery and Support
National Emergency Management Agency
Central Government Complex
55 Sejong-ro, Jongro-gu, Seoul 110760, Korea

National Institute for Disaster Prevention
National Emergency Management Agency
253-42, 7th Floor, Gongdeok-Dong, Mapo-Ku, Seoul, 121-719,
KOREA