

Excellency,

Honorable,

Distinguished Participants,

First of all, I would like to sincerely express my profound gratitude to the National Disaster Management Authority of Government of India, in particular Honorable Prof. Vinod Chandra Menon, the Member of NDMA, for his generous support as co organizer of the workshop on the “Trainers’ Training Program on the Community based Hazard Map Development” with the financial support from UN/ESCAP.

And also I would convey my sincerely appreciation to the Anna University, in particular, Prof.Dr.D.Viswanathan,Vice Chancellor and Prof Dr. Ramesh for the excellent support on the logistics and other details. And I would also sincerely express my gratitude to His Excellency, Thiru Surjit Singh Barnala, the Governor of Tamil Nadu for being kind to spare so much of his valuable time to be with all of us this morning .

Later, Mr. Koji Suzuki of Executive Director of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center, would explain on our activity and the aim of the programme of the workshop in detail.

The 2 days workshop will be designed to train the trainers on the community based hazard map development. The hazard map is a well known tool to enhance the community’s awareness to the natural disasters in Japan. We, ADRC disseminate the procedure of the development of the map for our 26 member countries in Asia.

As you know, there are two types of hazard maps, one is developed by the scientifically based knowledge, another one is the community based hazard map that is developed by the community in a participatory manner, it is a non scientific, but very practical for the community.

In this workshop, we would share our knowledge of the procedure of community based hazard map development with the participants.

I would briefly explain the 2days program. We already have provided you the agenda of the workshop in your bag. Please look through it.

On the 1st day of the programme, after the inaugural session, there are three lectures in the afternoon. The first lecture will be presented by Prof. Ramesh of Anna University on the “Natural Hazard and Disaster Risk Management in the East Coast of India”. The second one will be presented by Mr.Anil Sinha of Program Advisor of International Recovery Platform in Kobe, Japan, on the “Build back better recovery”. The third speaker is Prof.Ogawa of

Fujitokoha University, former Executive Director of ADRC. The title is “Lesson Learnt from Past Japanese Disaster Experience” and “the procedure of community based hazard map development”. After the lecture, the reception will be hosted by ADRC in this evening.

On the 2nd Day of the programme, the participants will be divided into 5 groups, and we will depart here for town watching to “Foreshore Estate” in Chennai, which was affected by the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004. At the site, we will survey the site to understand their hazard and the problem for the disaster, before noon returning to the venue, the community based hazard map will be developed by the participants based on the observations from the town watching. After the discussion on the problem of the site within the each group, the presentation will be made by each group to the participants.

Through the 2days workshop, the participants will learn the procedure of the development of the map, and the participants will recognize it as a useful communication tool to understand the risk.

At this time, we select the tsunami affected site in Chennai for the map development; however, the methodology will be applicable to the other hazards such as Cyclone, Earthquake, Landslide, flood etc, and also applicable to the other locations in India.

We are convinced that the community based hazard map will be a useful tool for raising the community risk awareness in India as well as Japan, and we hope the participants will be a great trainer of the community risk awareness using the map.

I thank you once again for your participation and attention.