



# ADRC Highlights

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## ➤ Recent ADRC's Activities

### □ 5<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference on Disaster Management

(27 – 30 September 2000, Vancouver, Canada)

The goal of the 5th APCDM is to provide a forum for the international community, health professional and disaster experts, as well as government and non-government agencies, to explore disaster management techniques and to discuss emergency medical methods, models and technologies. There were 8 themes to be presented on the conference, and Dr. Bambang Rudyanto of ADRC presented Development of Internet GIS System for Disaster Management in the theme of Telehealth and Communication Technologies in Disaster Medicine and Disaster Management. This conference was organized by Dr. Wayne Greene of Disaster Preparedness Resources Centre, the University of Columbia. Disaster Assistance Division of JICA, BRITISH COLUMBIA Provincial Emergency Program and other also attended it.

### □ GDIN Information Technology Exposition & Conference (9 – 11 October 2000, Honolulu, Hawaii)

Dr. Yujiro Ogawa, Dr. Bambang Rudyanto and Mr. M. Babul Akhter of ADRC has attended the GDIN in Hawaii. The discussion was focused on some topics such as Information Needs of the Emergency Manager, Information Technologies and Resources and Networking Technologies - Analysis/Assessment. The session 7 topic was Integration Strategies in which Dr. Ogawa and Mr. Joseph Lees of Pacific Disaster Center chaired this session. Dr. Bambang presented the paper with the topic of "Historical Data Sharing and Internet GIS toward a concrete Institutional Strategies". There are 3 topics that ADRC presented: Unique ID Code for historical disaster events, The 'Matrix', for the job description of organization in Asia Pacific Disaster Information Network (APDIN) and about the Internet GIS. We concluded it was quite success, and there are some possibilities for the future collaboration. Some of current activities of APDIN are as follows:

#### a. Survey of existing Disaster Information Network (DIN) capacities and resources

Develop a matrix, which identifies the types of information, which exist in relation to capacities and resources of DIN so as to enable simple and easy access to information. This will provide a comprehensive view of information sources, and assist to avoid duplication and foster cooperation.

#### b. Historical events database

This project does not aim to duplicate existing international

databases, but will develop a plan for collection of relevant data in cooperation with Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) and other suitable databases compilers. It is envisaged that entry to information will be via a simple matrix listing countries and types of information available.

ADRC has also visited Center of Excellence (COE) in Disaster Management Humanitarian Assistance in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. We learned that COE's mission is to support the prevention and mitigation of humanitarian emergencies through collaboration and civil-military cooperation. Focussing on Disaster Management, Humanitarian Assistance and Peace Operations.

## ➤ Recent Natural Disaster

### □ Cambodia Floods and OCHA Activities

Cambodia has experienced the worst and prolonged floods since July, affecting more than 20% of its total population. OCHA, Geneva dispatched Ms. Feng Min Kan, Regional Disaster Response Advisor in Asia, to Cambodia on 15 September to support the UN Resident Coordinator and the Government in their flood response activities. On 20 September, Ms. Kan led a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team to assist the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) in Cambodia in disaster assessment and the preparation of the United Nations Inter-Agency Appeal for Emergency Relief and Initial Rehabilitation. The other two UNDAC members came from Canada and Denmark. With assistance of the UNDAC team, the UNDMT in Cambodia launched the Appeal on 2 October. The Appeal seeks USD10.7 million to assist 850,000 most vulnerable people for a period of six months.

### □ Bangladesh Storm

When the people of South Western Districts of Bangladesh are still struggling to recover from the serious blow of uncommon flood, a deep depression was formed in the Bay of Bengal on 26th October, 2000. Suddenly turned into cyclonic storm, changed its direction & hit Bangladesh on 28th October, causing untold suffering to the people. There was a heavy shower accompanied by strong wind which damaged kancha houses up-rooted trees and disrupted electric connection almost all over the country.

Report of death of fourteen persons has so far been received officially. But as per unofficial news published in the National Daily news papers, 26 persons lost their lives and more than one hundred fishermen are missing. (Oct. 30, Posted by Mr. Khabiruddin Ahmed, Joint Secretary Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief, Bangladesh)

If you have comments or needs for this Newsletter, please write to ADRC in the right box.

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