



# ADRC Highlights

## Vol.19

### Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

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#### ➤ JICA Seminar on Disaster Management

- Trainees learned the importance of Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Preparedness -

#### □ JICA Seminar on Disaster Management

Asian Disaster Reduction Center conducted the JICA Seminar on Disaster Management with full support of the JICA Hyogo International Center. This seminar had been formerly conducted by the former National Land Agency (now the Cabinet Office-Disaster Management) and from this fiscal year the ADRC succeeded this seminar from the national government. Now here is the brief introduction of this one-month seminar. The seminar was held mainly in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan with attendance by 13 trainees from 12 countries.



Seminar in the Disaster Management Conference Room, Cabinet Office

#### □ Objective of the seminar

Objective of the seminar is to reduce the actual impacts of natural disasters by betterment of each country's disaster management. Here trainees take Japanese case as one model for better disaster management. They also learn preparedness and awareness activities, international cooperation for disaster reduction and emergency response. Through these, they are expected to improve their disaster management capabilities of their countries.

#### □ Participating Countries

This time trainees came from the following 12 countries:

India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Philippines, Fiji, Turkey, Kenya, Romania, Peru and Venezuela.

#### □ Programs

Sessions like basic concepts on disaster management and the country report was good chance to exchange their experiences and have common understanding among trainees. The seminar went on in Tokyo, Hyogo and Kagoshima. In Tokyo the national disaster management policy were introduced and functions of Tachikawa Disaster Management Base were observed on site. In Hyogo, trainees got the insights on

how the lessons from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake were reflected to the present Hyogo's disaster management capabilities. In Kagoshima they were shocked at day-to-day fights against Sakurajima active volcano, floods by heavy rains and landslides with fragile volcanic sediments.

In international arena the Asian Disaster Reduction Center introduced its regional cooperation including disaster information sharing among countries, and the UN OCHA got their understanding on the key roles in emergency response including disaster assessment and response coordination.

We put special emphasis on active participation by trainees at this seminar. Town watching for awareness and preparedness was conducted in Kobe and trainees walked and observed the real town situation. In Kyoto, Kiyomizu Temple and Yasaka Shrine sites taught us the importance of

preservation of cultural heritages and famous Sannenzaka Street was fully prepared for possible disasters in the region. Learning GIS and simple Triage were other challenges and the trainees were really absorbed in.

#### □ Effect of the Seminar

We believe the seminar had successful results as the trainees expressed their eagerness to improve disaster management capabilities in their countries.

"We want to take many of these policies and ideas used in Japan as the disaster management here is straightforward from policy level through the operational and grass root levels."

"It was very good that we could get answers for our questions and exchanged our own views and comments."

In this regard, I can say this seminar was a success.

#### □ Future tasks

There are two tasks for the future seminar. First, it is better to focus on some topics though this seminar should cover wide areas because the present subjects are too many for the one-month seminar. Second, we have to take up such natural disasters as floods, landslides and windstorms as well because the trainees' countries are more often prone to those disasters than earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Lastly, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Cabinet Office of the Japanese Government, Hyogo Prefecture, Kagoshima Prefecture, Kyoto Prefecture, City of Kobe, City of Kyoto, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and various other organizations which kindly helped us during this seminar. We really appreciate your continuous cooperation and support on this endeavor.

(By Taichi Kusaka, Senior Researcher)

#### ➤ ADRC Visits Gujarat, India

Dr. Yujiro Ogawa, Executive Director of ADRC has been dispatched to India as a member of "the Mission for Background Survey of Earthquake Disaster Rehabilitation in India" organized by Japanese government to assess the needs for the restoration and reconstruction from the earthquake disaster in western India for 9 days since February 26. The mission which is sent at the request of the India government consists of the member from Cabinet Office (the leader), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure & Transport, and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). They will study the actual situation with a view to considering how to support the future reconstruction.

Besides, ADRC is planning a multilateral cooperation project among ADRC member countries to share and utilize the lessons from this large disaster for their disaster management and also to bring some advices from each member country for the reconstruction of India. Through the discussion with the government of India in this visit, we are to make further consideration for putting the plan into practice.

According to the information from the government of India on March 1, the estimated damage amount is about US\$4.6 billion and the death toll is 19,776. You can get the information of international financial contribution to India on the ReliefWeb of UN OCHA (<http://www.reliefweb.int/>). Among ADRC member countries, Armenia, China, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Russia, Singapore, and Viet Nam are listed in the report for their contributions of cash, in-kind, or personnel dispatch.



Simple Triage Exercise with hypothetical



Group working on the map in the Town Watching

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

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