



ADRC Highlights Vol.35

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

November 1, 2001

➤ ADRC Cooperative Project (Singapore)

❑ International Urban Search and Rescue Training



SCDF, or Singapore Civil Defense Force, of Singapore Government launched a training course for around 20 personnel in charge of search and rescue (SAR) activities mainly from developing countries 2 years ago. SCDF has promoted international contribution for disaster reduction. ADRC, for the first time, cooperated with SCDF this year and invited participants

from ADRC's member countries to this course. Thus, ADRC dispatched three personnel from Philippines, Myanmar and Korea.

Singapore Civil Defense Academy, the training facility of SCDF, furnishes several facilities, such as a building with lecture and practice rooms, a fire simulation facility with 10-storied building, a confined space and debris space. Restaurant and lodging are also provided.

The training duration was around 2 weeks (from October 8th to 20th). While lectures were mainly held in the first week, practical drills were done in the second week. As the final part of the training, SAR simulation activities were held by making use of ruined facilities until the midnight.

Foreign trainees consisted of soldiers, fighter fighters and police officers, depending on their countries. All of them were impressed with technical skills as well as excellent facilities by SCDF. The training has ended in great success with their resolution to apply this outcome to their own SAR activities.

While it is said that Singapore is a safe country, they are always conscious of crisis management prepared for disasters, just in case. Singapore is enthusiastic about sharing such preparedness activities with foreign countries. In this regard, SCDF will organize "FIRE SAFETY & RESCUE ASIA CONFERENCE 2001", which will be organized by National Fire Prevention Council and Conference & Exhibition Management Services Pte Ltd of Singapore, from November 21st to 23rd. Participants from overseas are welcomed to attend. Those who are interested in this event can get access to the website of the conference <http://www.firesafetyrescueasia.com/FSRCONF1.HTM>.

(Ryosuke Aota, Senior Researcher)

➤ Conference Information

❑ The 4th ADRC International Meeting

ADRC will hold the forth ADRC International Meeting with inviting disaster management officials and experts from each member/ advisory countries as following. The meeting will be held outside of Japan for the first time in collaboration with the government of India. Please see <http://www.adrc.or.jp/4th/4thMeeting.htm> for more details.

Date: January 22 (Mon.) & 23 (Tue.), 2002

Venue: Hotel Metropolitan/ Nikko New Delhi, India

❑ Conference-Workshop on Post-disaster Reconstruction

The above conference-workshop will be held at the University of Montreal from May 23 to May 25, 2002. For more information, please refer <http://www.adrc.or.jp/highlights/1-rec-conference.htm>.

➤ ADRC Staff Profile No. 8

❑ Mr. Masanori Araki, Chief Administrator

In April 1999, I joined ADRC as a seconded staff from Hyogo Prefectural Government. I graduated from Kyoto University of Foreign Studies in 1981 and was engaged in Lipton Japan Co. Ltd, Unilever's Company to take charge of practical management accounting. I dedicated to company's long-term management planning and cost estimation of new products.



In April 1991, I became a prefectural government officer and was mainly in charge of inviting enterprises to establish their organizations in Hyogo prefecture. I was also responsible for encouraging the activities of the Non Government Organizations (NGOs) and Non Profitable Organizations (NPOs) in the prefecture.

At present, my job in ADRC involves general affairs, account and finance, concretely focusing on accounting management and the logistics of ADRC International Meeting etc.

Besides my job, I have visited Armenia, Iran, Nepal and some countries and realized keenly that while natural disasters knew no borders: rich or poor, industrialized or developing country, we can not prevent the eruption of the forces of nature, however, it is essential for us to pursue aggressive and proper disaster reduction initiatives towards any disaster in any region.

Experiencing the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake about 7 years ago, I would like to inform the Asian people the importance of preparedness, cooperation and support of one another whether affected by disasters or not. I therefore, personally pledge to devote my own energy to the important goal of disaster reduction in Asia in the months and years ahead

➤ Visitors to ADRC



On October 26, 2001, six trainees of the JICA Group Training Course in Maritime Search and Rescue Operation and Maritime Disaster Prevention visited ADRC. They enthusiastically heard the presentation on ADRC activities.

➤ Recent Natural Disaster in Asia

❑ Earthquake in Yunnan province, southwest China

The earthquake, measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale, struck a remote area in southwest China's Yunnan province on October 27, 2001. State media reported that three persons were killed, at least 130 people were injured, and more than 200,000 people were affected in the earthquake.

Yongsheng County, the most affected area, is a sparsely populated region that abuts the Tibetan plateau and has been the scene of a series of quakes in recent years. It lies some 300 kilometers (190 miles) northwest of the provincial capital of Kunming.

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

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