



ADRC Highlights

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Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

November 16, 2001

- **Korea's First Int'l Disaster Cooperation Seminar**
- **ADRC was invited to deliver keynote lecture**



At Central Disaster Control Room, MOGAHA

On 6 November 2001, The First International Disaster Cooperation Seminar organized by the National Institute for Disaster Prevention (NIDP) with the support of Korea Disaster Prevention Association was held and Satoru Nishikawa, ADRC Deputy Executive Director, delivered keynote lecture.

NIDP was established on 2 September 1997, and this was the first international seminar to be organized. Officials responsible for disaster countermeasures in the national & local governments as well as academics involved in disaster studies totalling to approximately 300 participated.

Active discussions were held on topics of ADRC's international cooperation and Japan & Korea's efforts in urban flood disaster mitigation. On 7 November, a field trip to Paju city (located approx. 35kms northeast of Seoul) which was heavily affected by floods in 1996, 98 and 99 was organized. Flood control works, reconstruction projects and new water pumping stations for drainage of inner basin were shown to the participants.

- **ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report**
- **Experiences in ADRC never to be forgotten**



A Field Research at Taro-cho, Iwate on

rehabilitation, and reconstruction

Having just began a career in Disaster Management in my country, I had little experience and knowledge on the field of Disaster Management. I am glad to have been given the opportunity to come to ADRC, as this program has been my first training and learning experience in the field of Disaster Management.

The Visiting Researcher program has surely made a significant contribution to the enhancement of my knowledge and skills. The field trips have provided an opportunity for me to learn more about the phenomenon, the countermeasures and the disaster management system particularly in Japan.

It has been a great learning experience and the achievements through this program will go a long way in assisting me with my duties. I also believe that the Visiting Researcher Program has also opened doors and prepared me for more challenges in the near future. With the expert advise and direction from professionals of ADRC, I feel confident to perform better as a disaster manager upon my return

To be a disaster manager is not as easy as it may seem because disaster management does not include only the general management functions of planning, organizing, staffing or coordinating and leading but it also involves the entire disaster spectrum which includes, prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response,

to my country.

The benefits reaped from this program will help my country to achieve its ultimate aim of building a "disaster reduction culture" within the attitudes of Papua New Guineans. Finally, I would like to thank all the staff of ADRC for their kind and generous support they gave during my short stay here in Japan. With all the support I received, my stay has been an enjoyable and memorable one.

(Philomena Miria, Training Officer, National Disaster Management Office, Dept. of Provincial & Local Government Affairs, PNG)

- **ADRC Staff Profiles No. 9**
- **Mr. Fumiaki Yoshimura, Senior Researcher**

I began work at ADRC as a Senior Researcher since April 2001. Since then I had worked at the Hyogo Prefecture Government in charge of reconstruction of the urban area from the earthquake, planning and building infrastructure like highways and so on.



Field Survey of Gujarat Earthquake, India

When the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake occurred, I gained very bitter but precious experience; my condominium which was located 4 km from the epicenter was damaged; more than 3,000 evacuees stayed at my wife's high school and I was busy engaged in the reconstruction of infrastructure and the city at the Prefecture's Public Works Department.

The scene of the damaged area will never be forgotten as I witnessed collapsed houses, fire breaking out, people running trying to escape. Besides, the most valued experience is the overwhelming assistance from all around the world, especially the contribution for the affected people from the people who had little to eat.

I am happy to take this new job which makes it possible for me to tell the lessons learnt from the devastating disaster and the steps which we took by sincerely doing our best to reconstruct the area and to avoid our sad and regrettable experience.

Recently, the number of natural disasters is increasing. To reduce disaster, we have to take feasible measures for each level from community level by making hazard map and doing community disaster mitigation activity. Then going further to the local and national government level by building disaster management systems and carrying out disaster reduction projects. Finally, to the global level by coping with deforestation and dissertation. For that purpose, I would like to think with our member countries of ways in which ADRC can contribute to our member countries.

- **Recent Natural Disaster in Asia**
- **Typhoon Lingling hit Philippines and Vietnam**

On 7 November 2001, the Philippines were hit by a Tropical Storm with maximum winds of 105 kilometers per hour. The storm triggered serious flash floods, which have reportedly caused 184 casualties as of November 12. The southern island of Camiguin was the worst hit, registering 79 dead and 242 people missing. According to news reports, 2,000 families have been forced to leave their homes and take shelter in schools and government buildings.

On 12 November, the typhoon hit the central coast of Vietnam after leaving a lot of damage in the Philippines. State media reported that at least 20 people have died and 83 injured so far, as winds of up to 120km per hour uprooted trees and knocked down many houses.

(Nov. 13 & Nov. 15 UN-OCHA Situation Report etc.)

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

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