



ADRC Highlights

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Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

June 3, 2002

➤ International Workshop for Emergency Response in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



An International Workshop for Emergency Response was co-hosted by Kyrgyz Republic and Montana State, U.S.A. in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from 20 May to 23 May 2002, with the participation of 300 emergency response professionals from 22 countries around the world.

The workshop was held to improve disaster emergency response and all participants were actively involved in discussions. ADRC was invited to the meeting and made two presentations about the role of ADRC, and lessons learnt from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

Overview of the workshop:

- [1] Presentations by the governments of Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Republic, and U.S.A., etc, and representatives of FEMA and other organizations
 - [2] Discussions in 4 groups
- <Themes>**
- (1) Planning measures for the prevention and reduction of an emergency situation
 - (2) Monitoring and prognosis for earthquakes
 - (3) Evaluation of the stability of buildings, engineering communications and other structures, during an earthquake
 - (4) International humanitarian aid during catastrophic earthquakes
- [3] Inspection of Emergency Drills by Kyrgyzstan

ADRC staff members also paid a courtesy call to Mr. Eshmambetov Radbek Bakievich, Minister of Ecology and Emergency Situations in the Kyrgyz Republic, and he expressed the Kyrgyz intention to join as a member country of ADRC.



(Mr. Fumiaki Yoshimura & Masanori Araki, Senior Researcher)

➤ The Opening of the JICA Hyogo Int'l Centre (HIC)

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) opened the Hyogo International Centre (HIC) in the eastern central business district of Kobe city on April 12, 2002, as a foothold of international cooperation in fields such as nurturing human resources in developing countries.

The former Hyogo International Centre was built in Suma ward in Kobe city in 1973. The Centre has conducted various kinds of training courses such as foreign trade, medical technology, environmental conservation, etc. The Centre accepted about 2,500 trainees from a total of 124 countries between 1973 and 2001.

Based on lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji

Earthquake, the newly built Hyogo International Centre (HIC) will facilitate international cooperation activities on disaster prevention and city planning in collaboration

with other organizations, such as the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Centre for Regional Development, and the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution. In addition, HIC aims to fulfill its functions as a focal point of international cooperation closely linked with the local community.



<Profile of Facilities>

Area	3,760 m ² /	Floor Space	9,670 m ²
Building	13 Floors		
	1st - 4th Floor	Office, Training / Welfare Facilities	
	5th - 13th Floor	Accommodation for Trainees	

<URL> <http://www.jica.go.jp/branch/hic>

➤ New Publication: "World Disasters Report 2002"

The World Disasters Report 2002 will focus on reducing disaster risk. How significant a role can mitigation and preparedness play in reducing disaster losses? How can any international disaster response better integrate with local responses? Most urgently of all, can we show that disaster preparedness and mitigation pay off in terms of lives, livelihoods and assets saved?

The report examines the rationale for disaster preparedness, how to mitigate the effects of global warming in small island states and how to reduce risk from earthquakes in urban areas. It also looks at how communities in Mozambique and Latin America have successfully reduced the toll of disasters through sound preparedness. In addition to the data chapter, updated annually, the report studies humanitarian accountability and presents a methodology to assess vulnerabilities and capacities.

Paper: ISBN 92-9139-082-8 June 2002 / 240 pages, US\$ 25.00
Published by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (For further information, e-mail: wdr@ifrc.org)

➤ Recent Natural Disasters in Asia

☐ Heatwave in southern India

Temperatures had soared to 45 degrees along the Bay of Bengal in early May, 2002. In the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, the heat wave killed more than 600 people, state officials said.

May was abnormally hot in southern India, with dry winds blowing from the northwestern deserts much earlier than usual.

(5/18 CNN News etc.)

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

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