



ADRC Highlights Vol.61

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

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➤ ADRC provides Keynote Speech at the 6th Asia & Pacific Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



The 6th Asia & Pacific Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was held in Manila from the 24th to the 28th of Nov. ADRC was asked to provide the keynote speech on disaster management. ADRC Executive Director Satoru Nishikawa delivered a presentation titled "Holistic Approach to Disaster Reduction"

emphasizing the need for a multi-sectored, comprehensive approach to address the entire disaster reduction cycle (Total Disaster Risk Management) and the important role to be played by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. 44 sister red cross/crescent societies from Asia, the Pacific, and the Middle East, 11 sister societies from Europe and the Americas, the IFRC secretariat, and ICRC gathered in Manila under the theme "Uniting for Human Dignity" for the purpose of considering common issues and special interests of the National Societies. 3 major issues, Health (Emergencies and HIV/AIDS), Population Movement (Internal Displacement, Migration, and Refugees), and Disaster Management were discussed.

The outcome of the 4 day discussion, "Manila Action Plan (MAP) 2002" identified the key tasks to be accomplished in the Asia-Pacific region over the next four years. Under the subheading "Disaster Management" several important points were made clear. National Societies will actively participate by sharing information, experiences, and best practices, and will ensure that staff and volunteers acquire necessary knowledge, skills, and expertise through information sharing and active learning. In addition, the IFRC Secretariat will educate donors of the necessity of not only dealing with a disaster but also of the broader concept of disaster management.

Conference participants were invited to an official luncheon by the President of the Philippines, HE Arroyo, which was attended by HR.H Princess Margriet of the Netherlands who represents the Standing Commission of the Red Cross Red Crescent, showing political and worldwide public support for the Red Cross/Crescent movement. The well organized meeting by the Philippine National Red Cross led to success and wide coverage of the significance of this conference by the national media. The details of this conference can be obtained at <http://www.aprc.net>. The 7th Asia & Pacific Conference is scheduled for 2006.

➤ The Int'l Seminar on Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation 2002 (Delhi, India)

The Government of India, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India, and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) co-hosted "The International Seminar on Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation 2002" in Delhi, India from the 21st to the 23rd of November 2002.

Over 150 delegates representing international organizations, national and state governments, colleges and institutions, NGOs and the media participated in the seminar. The discussion focused on, "Community Based Preparedness, Prevention and Mitigation," "Comprehensive Forecasting and Warning Systems for Effective Disaster Preparedness and Response," and other topics.

ADRC made presentation on "Risk, Vulnerability, and Hazard Analysis and Information Systems".

The seminar was successful for partnership and information sharing among international organizations, national and state governments, institutions and NGOs in the south Asian region. For detailed information, please visit <http://www.undp.org/in/dpmsh.htm>.



Before this seminar, UNDP India hosted "Building Systematic Disaster Inventories in South Asia" on the 20th of November 2002. UNDP chapters in the south Asian region and other regional agencies participated in the meeting to discuss a systematic method for building disaster inventories with the goal of effective information sharing. Further collaboration and partnership among related organizations was confirmed for Building Systematic Disaster Inventories. For more information, please access <http://www.undp.org/in/dmweb/bsdi.htm>.

(Fumiaki Yoshimura, Senior Researcher)

➤ INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting

INSARAG's (International Search and Rescue Advisory Group) Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting was held in Shanghai from the 11th to the 13th of November 2002. ADRC was invited as an observer and Satoru Nishikawa made a presentation on ADRC's role in disaster reduction in Asia and human resource development programmes.

INSARAG is an informal inter-governmental network under the United Nations umbrella that deals with urban search and rescue (USAR) and related disaster response issues. Its purpose is to provide a platform for information exchange in order to define standards for international USAR assistance and to develop methodology for international cooperation and coordination in earthquake response.

INSARAG includes earthquake-prone countries as well as traditional providers of international assistance.

INSARAG was established in 1991, following the initiative of the international search and rescue teams who operated in the 1988 Armenia earthquake. The bitter experience of the Armenia earthquake highlighted the need for better communication among international teams, the establishment of procedures to be followed in the event of acute disasters, and respect for local conditions. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva functions as the INSARAG Secretariat.

With more international search and rescue teams becoming increasingly active in Asia, 16 countries participated from the Asia-Pacific in this year's meeting. The China Seismological Bureau, which has recently organized a new professional Urban Search and Rescue Team, hosted this meeting and made an impressive demonstration of exercises for the participants. The next INSARAG Asia Pacific Regional Meeting is scheduled to be held in Kobe from the 13th to the 15th of Nov. 2003, hosted by JICA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

If you have comments or requests for this Newsletter, please write to ADRC at the address on the right.

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