



# ADRC Highlights Vol.66

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

March 17, 2003

## ➤ JICA- ADRC Seminar on Disaster Management JFY2002

From the 19<sup>th</sup> of January to the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2003, Asian Disaster Reduction Center conducted "JICA Seminar on Disaster Management JFY2002". It was the 3<sup>rd</sup> time for us to conduct this seminar since JFY2000. This year, 16 JICA trainees were invited from the following 15 countries: Bhutan, Colombia, El Salvador, Fiji, Haiti, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Mozambique, Pakistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Venezuela, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Jamaica.



Hyogo Prefecture Emergency Management Center

The objective of the seminar was to improve the disaster management capabilities of the participants' countries by providing detailed information on Japanese disaster management. The program of the seminar included the following subjects:

- (1) Basic concepts of disaster management
- (2) Disaster management of the Japanese central government
- (3) Disaster management of the Japanese local government
- (4) Role of private sector and mass media
- (5) International disaster management cooperation

Through the program, trainees were expected to learn comprehensively about the Japanese disaster management system and about lessons taught by the Kobe Earthquake of 1995.



Preserved House for Memorial of Mt. Unzen Debris-Flow

In each subject, trainees had opportunities to visit various related ministries and organizations. For instance, to learn about the Japanese central government's disaster management efforts, they visited the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Land Infrastructure, and

Transport, the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, and the Japan Meteorological Agency. Also, they listened to lectures from the Kobe City Municipal Government and the Hyogo Pref. Disaster Management Center to learn how local governments are trying to establish better disaster management systems for disaster preparedness, response, and rehabilitation.

Furthermore, in response to suggestions from last year's trainees, we extended more time to cover other disasters like floods and volcanic eruptions. On a field trip to a volcano, Mt. Unzen, they observed houses

that were buried by flows of debris that occurred in 1991. The participants were impressed by the huge sabo (erosion control) structures, which are designed to capture any future debris flows, and early warning systems for evacuation.

At the end of the seminar, the trainees expressed their strong willingness to apply what they learned in Japan to their home country. During the seminar, various ministries and related organizations kindly helped us to introduce their efforts for disaster reduction. We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation their continuous support on this seminar.

For more information on this seminar, please contact Ms. Akiko Nakamura ([nakamura@adrc.or.jp](mailto:nakamura@adrc.or.jp)).

## ➤ ADRC participates in the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones

The 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea was hosted in Islamabad by the Government of Pakistan from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of March, 2003. Three components (meteorology, hydrology, and disaster prevention &



preparedness) were discussed to promote and coordinate measures designed to reduce the negative impact caused by tropical cyclones in the region.

Two of ADRC's Senior Researchers participated in the session as observers and made a presentation on "ADRC's Role in Information Sharing for Effective Disaster Management".

ADRC took the opportunity to visit the Emergency Relief Cell of the Cabinet Division of Pakistan as well as other partner organizations to discuss further cooperation.

For more information, please contact Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki ([tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp](mailto:tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp)) or Mr. Masanori Araki ([araki@adrc.or.jp](mailto:araki@adrc.or.jp)).

## ➤ Recent Natural Disasters in Asia □ West Bengal of India was attacked by heavy storm

An unexpected storm blew in from the Bay of Bengal late night on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003. At least 15 people have been killed and more than 500 injured in the Indian state of West Bengal by heavy rains and hailstorms. The wind speeds reached up to 80 kilometers per hour in some places, which left a trail of devastation uprooting trees, electric poles, telephone posts and flattening innumerable mud houses in rural areas.

(3/13 BBC News etc.)

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