



ADRC Highlights

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Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

April 16, 2003

➤ **United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC)**

□ **2003 Asia Induction Course**

ADRC co-hosted the “United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Asia Induction Course” with UN OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) on March 16-28, 2003, in Kobe, Japan. The UNDAC Team is a stand-by team of disaster management professionals who are nominated and funded by member governments, OCHA, UNDP (United Nations Development Program), and operational humanitarian United Nations Agencies such as WFP (World Food Programme), UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund) and WHO (World Health Organization). Upon the request of a disaster-stricken country, the UNDAC team can be deployed within hours to carry out rapid assessment of priority needs and to support national authorities and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in orchestrating on-site international relief.

To be a UNDAC Team member, each nominee must take part in a two-week training course during which they are prepared for the role that they will play at the site of a disaster.



UNDAC Training (Simulation Exercise) at Hyogo Disaster Management Center

The Asia Induction Course was held to build the capacity of the Asia-Pacific region in disaster response.

31 trainees from 14 national governments in the Asia Pacific region and 8 UN and International Agencies participated in the course. The course was based on interaction between the participants and OCHA staff with discussions on their experience in emergency response. In addition to covering techniques and methods directly related to the Team’s work, the course included aspects such as psychological pitfalls of emergencies, how to combat stress, team building, and working within the United Nations system.

For more information, please contact Mr. Fumiaki Yoshimura (yoshimura@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **ADRC Visiting Researcher’s Report**

□ **Mr. Dilli Prasad Shiwakoti, Nepal**

Nepal is a small and land-locked country in South Asia. It is situated between the two large, densely populated countries of India and China. Lying in the central part of the Himalayan Range, the altitude in Nepal varies from 60m at Terai to 8848m at Mt. Everest. Such a sharp vertical slope renders the country vulnerable to potential disasters like floods, landslides, slope failures, and soil erosion. Above all, Nepal is one of the severest flood hazard countries in the world. Heavy precipitation, high humidity, and steep watersheds and river channels contribute to the magnitude of floods.



Our disaster management system spends a lot of money and manpower for post-disaster operations, but lags in its total quality of management. We have some problems in phases of the disaster cycle like preparedness, rescue, relief, reconstruction, and rehabilitation. Problems we are currently facing include difficult geographic scenarios, inadequate infrastructure and facilities, low literacy rates, lack of modern technological knowledge, unplanned settlements, and lack of civilian participation and coordination. We have to learn from our past experiences and should increase the level of civilian participation in all phases of the disaster cycle. In my view, establishing a multifunctional disaster management model will be the key. To do so, we should focus on the mobilization of all actors in the country and proactively work to accommodate international cooperation.

(Dilli Prasad Shiwakoti, Director, Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home, Nepal)

[Notice of change of address]

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) moved to a new office on April 16, 2003. The new address is as follows:

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