



ADRC Highlights

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➤ **Public Forum "Living with Risk - are we prepared for the next big one? -" will be held on October 4**

September 1st, 2003 commemorates the 80th anniversary of the Great Kanto Earthquake. Also, the second Wednesday in October is the International Disaster Reduction Day (8 October this year) where various activities are conducted by the United Nations and other international organizations to improve our understanding of the natural disaster risk that society faces and to promote disaster reduction activities around the world.

Co-organizing with United Nations University (UNU), Cabinet Office of Japan, UN ISDR Secretariat, World Seismic Safety Initiative (WSSI), ADRC is going to hold Public Forum "Living with Risk - are we prepared for the next big one?" at UNU, Tokyo, Japan from 14:00-18:00, October 4 (Sat), 2003.

The forum will provide an opportunity to discuss the current status and challenges of earthquake disaster preparedness in Japan. Anyone is welcome to participate the event with free admission. Speakers are Dr. Tsuneo Katayama, President, National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED), and Dr. Kimiro Meguro, Associate Professor, University of Tokyo, and Prof. Haresh Shah, Professor of Stanford University, as well as Dr. David Mammen, President, Institute of Public Administration (IPA). These four renowned Japanese and International experts will address earthquake disaster reduction issues from historical, infrastructure, economic and emergency management perspectives. Japanese-English simultaneous translation will be provided. To register, please email your name, address and phone/fax number to eforum@hq.unu.edu by 26 September 2003. More information can be obtained at ADRC website at http://www.adrc.or.jp/OpenForum_200310/Public_Forum_20031004_en.htm



➤ **Flood Situation Report: Assam /Bihar in India**

Mr. V.P.Pasrija, ADRC's former Visiting Researcher and currently Assistant Director of National Disaster Management (NDM) Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has given us the situation report.

The first wave of floods started in Assam from 16th June, 2003, and 22 out of 24 districts are affected by floods in varying degrees. Assam is one of the flood-prone states in the country due to existence of River Brahmaputra and its tributaries, high rainfall areas, and flow of water from

neighboring country. The number of population affected and houses damaged and human lives lost are 5.23 million, 4,660 and 30 respectively.

In Bihar, the floods are continuing from 30th June, 2003. 17 out of 38 districts of the State are facing flood situation in varying degrees. The number of population affected and houses damaged and human lives lost are 3.6 million, 10,976 and 72 respectively.

As per the existing procedure, the State Governments have ready money in the form of Calamity Relief Fund for undertaking rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures in the areas affected by natural calamities including floods. For more information, please go to website of the NDM Control Room at <http://www.ndmindia.nic.in/flood2003/report1.htm>

➤ **ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report**
□ **Mr. Rachman Sobarna, Indonesia**

I have been working for the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources in Indonesia, as a senior researcher at the Directorate of Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation. My previous achievement includes handling geological environment issue and giving appropriate guidance for disaster reduction to local government officials and NGO staff.

Indonesia is a country composed of 17 thousands islands, which offers a wide variety of topographies and geological conditions as shown in the existence of volcanoes, mountains, faults, rivers, and lakes with wild forests. The variety of geological conditions makes the country prone to natural disasters, which are volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, and floods. The occurrence of landslide, debris flows and floods are more frequent due to many high rainfall areas. The disaster's recent characteristic is severe, and landslide/flows occur in unpredictable area. Triggered by heavy rainfall, these disasters also closely related to environmental damage.



Against such natural disasters, Government of Indonesia has three main policies that are (1) to focus on mitigation efforts and repressive/ rehabilitative actions, (2) to evacuate and to handle the disaster victims, and (3) to involve stakeholders on disaster management.

My intentions at ADRC are (1) to share disaster-related information among member countries of ADRC, (2) to gain knowledge about countermeasures in Japan, and (3) bring back those skills acquired to my country for future contribution. (Rachman Sobarna, Researcher, Directorate of Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Indonesia)

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

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