



# ADRC Highlights

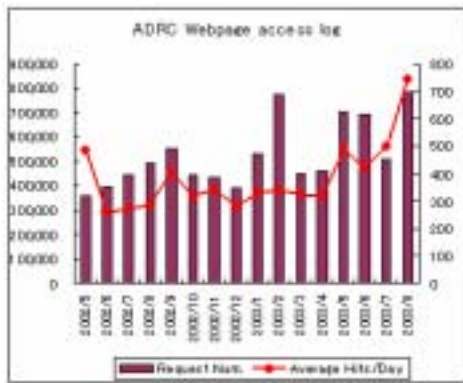
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### ➤ Introducing newly enhanced ADRC website

ADRC's website ([www.adrc.or.jp](http://www.adrc.or.jp)) consists of the following 12 databases plus access to the internet-based GIS named VENTEN: Recent Disaster Information, Disaster Information from Member Countries, Training Information Database, ADRC E-Net, Conference and Disaster Studies, Internet Exhibition, Multi-language Glossary on Natural Disasters, The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Database, ADRC Highlights, Archives, Disaster Reports from Member Countries, and Center Information. As shown in the figure, both of the total number of information requests



and average number of hits per day have been increasing (although they vary from month to month). The average number of hits per day increased from 230 at March 2002 to 420 at June 2003. When the major disaster occurred, there were more than 40,000 accesses to the ADRC website only in one day.

According to Google, an Internet search engine provider, the number of search requests by keyword "Asian Disaster Reduction Center" in the Japanese and English languages was about 1,800 and 38,900, respectively. ADRC would like to improve the contents and the easy user-interface in the future. For more information, please contact Mr. Arakida ([arakida@adrc.or.jp](mailto:arakida@adrc.or.jp)) or Ms. Kodama ([kodama@adrc.or.jp](mailto:kodama@adrc.or.jp)).

### ➤ ADRC Conducted Field Survey on the Minamata Debris Flow Disaster in Japan

From September 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, ADRC conducted the field survey on the debris flow in Minamata City, Kumamoto Prefecture, which was caused by the heavy rainfall in the midnight of July 19<sup>th</sup> through the early morning of July 20<sup>th</sup>.

The member of the survey team consisted of 3 senior researchers of ADRC including Dr. Yashiro, Mr. Yoshimura and Dr. Kurita. The team visited the Kumamoto Local Meteorological Observatory, Minamata Municipal Government and Hougawachi-Atsumari Area where the largest number of residents have suffered. Later, the team

participated in discussion with the Kumamoto Prefectural Government regarding the Hougawachi-Atsumari Area recovery plan.

Since there was an initial report that this disaster was caused by the lack of communication between local governments, the survey was planned to focus on the information flow and its contents before the occurrence of the disaster. However, it turned out later that the prediction of the disaster was difficult due to the torrential rainfall in such a short period in a limited area. It seems that the victims never imagined such a large-scale of debris flow would occur.



They were not well-prepared because only a few disasters caused by heavy rainfall in the area before. In addition to this, confronting such a large-scale disaster, the residents strongly hope for a quick recovery from the calamity with the assistance of the central and local governments. For more information, please contact Mr. Yoshimura ([yoshimura@adrc.or.jp](mailto:yoshimura@adrc.or.jp)), or Dr. Kurita ([kurita@adrc.or.jp](mailto:kurita@adrc.or.jp)).

### ➤ A Survey Mission to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz, and Azerbaijan

A Senior Researcher, Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki, was invited by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to participate in a survey mission to the Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz, and Azerbaijan from 9 to 20 September.

The objectives of the survey mission were to receive the following information from relevant government bodies in each country: (1) current situation of natural disasters, (2) disaster management system, (3) international cooperation in disaster reduction, (4) capacity building programs in disaster reduction, (5) requests to the JICA training program for Central Asia and Caucasus. Thanks to enthusiastic collaboration, the team could receive much feedback from the survey, which will be reflected in the JICA training seminar for disaster managers from Central Asia and Caucasus in Russian language, foreseen to be started next year in Kobe. For more information, please contact Ms. Tsunozaki ([tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp](mailto:tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp))



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

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