



# ADRC Highlights

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### ➤ ADRC participated in the UN ISDR 8th Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting

ADRC, as a member of the ISDR Inter-Agency Task Force, participated in the 8th Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting held at the United Nations in Geneva on November 5-6, 2003. Mr. Jan Egeland, newly appointed Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, chaired the meeting. Mr. Salvano Briceño, Director of the ISDR Secretariat, reported on the latest ISDR programs and activities, which included an update on the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action and the preparatory process leading to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction foreseen to be held on January 18-22, 2005, Kobe Hyogo.



With regard to the ISDR regional programs, it should be noted that an Open Partnership for disaster reduction in Asia has been launched by ISDR, ADPC and ADRC with the support of UNDP/BCPR and UN/ESCAP, which is represented in the publication "ISDR Informs Newsletter for Asia, Issue 0".

Some Task Force members suggested that more attention be given to the development of national platforms that would play a crucial role in the implementation of ISDR objectives, which ADRC had also proposed at the previous Task Force meetings. ADRC confirmed its intention to contribute to developing national platforms in Asia on the occasion of ADRC meetings where government officers involved in disaster reduction gather.

Reports from the four working groups (WG1: Climate and Disasters, WG2: Early Warning, WG3: Risk, Vulnerability and Impact Assessments, WG4: Wildland Fires) were presented. It was agreed that the activities of WG2 and WG4 have come to the end and their contributions to their respective subjects were appreciated. WG3 reported on the activities that took place after March 2003, including the technical meeting on GLIDE (GLobal unique disaster IDentifier number) held on 14-15 July to discuss the generation scheme, format and promotion of GLIDE in order to be a more proactive and comprehensive tool for sharing disaster information. It was announced that the next technical meeting on GLIDE will be held in mid 2004.

Substantial discussion took place on the topic of the review of Yokohama Strategy and preparations for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction. It was informed that the format, objectives and scope of the Conference are currently being discussed by the UN 58th General Assembly. The Government of Japan reconfirmed its intention to the Task Force members to host the World Conference in January 2005 in Kobe and to contribute substantively to the review process.

The results of the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Disaster Reduction (organized by the Council of Europe and hosted by the Government of Spain) held on October 6-8 in Madrid, and of the Second International Early Warning Conference (EWCII) (hosted by the Government of Germany) held on October 16-18 in Bonn were also reported. For more information, please contact Mr. Nishikawa ([nishikawa@adrc.or.jp](mailto:nishikawa@adrc.or.jp)) or Ms. Tsumozaki ([tsumozaki@adrc.or.jp](mailto:tsumozaki@adrc.or.jp)).

### ➤ TDRM Conference was held in Kobe, Japan

ADRC and UN OCHA/ADRU jointly organized the International Conference on Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) on 2-4 December in Kobe, Japan.

The conference intended to further promote TDRM approach among non-traditional yet critical stakeholders and exponents of disaster reduction. Essentially, it aimed to develop among all concerned sectors a strategic understanding of how to integrate TDRM into the national planning process and disaster reduction and response systems of the participating countries. The present challenge is how to implement the TDRM in each country.

The conference came to a conclusion with an emphasis on the following issues, (1) mainstreaming disaster risk management into the national planning process, (2) collaboration among stakeholders, and (3) best practices towards TDRM are pertinent for the implementation of a comprehensive disaster reduction strategy.

In the total disaster risk management approach, activities from structural interventions to community based disaster management (CBDM), which reduces hazard and vulnerability respectively, should be coordinated. The challenge we face now is how to orient development agencies of the need to integrate disaster risk management into the national & local planning process.



Collaboration among stakeholders is a critical strategy of the TDRM Approach. It enhances and complements the respective capacities of concerned sectors and organizations in the pursuit of development objectives.

It is essential to learn lessons from the best practices around us both nationally as well as internationally. Highlighting such practices is vital for making decisions that involve prime decision makers.

The first day (2 Dec.) was a public forum which attracted over 100 participants. It is scheduled to be broadcasted on NHK Satellite TV (BS1) at 17:00 (JST) on January 17, 2004. For more information, please contact Mr. Yoshimura ([yoshimura@adrc.or.jp](mailto:yoshimura@adrc.or.jp)).

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

Published by : [Asian Disaster Reduction Center \(ADRC\)](http://www.adrc.or.jp/)  
5th Floor, Hitomiraikan 1-5-2, Wakinohamakaigan-dori, Chuo-ku, KOBE,  
651-0073, JAPAN E-mail: [editor@adrc.or.jp](mailto:editor@adrc.or.jp) Phone: +81-78-262-5540