



ADRC Highlights Vol.86

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

February 1, 2004

➤ **ADRC Cooperative Project FY2003**
□ **Seminar on Flood Disaster Management in Vietnam**

As a part of the "Vietnam - ADRC cooperative project: Human Resources Development on Disaster Management", seminar on Flood Disaster Management for technical experts who are in charge of flood disaster management was held in Hanoi, Vietnam from November 17-20, 2003.

Vietnam is highly prone to water-related disasters, such as floods in Mekong River, flash floods and storm surge.

While Vietnam is said to have long tradition of disaster prevention, understanding and utilization of the latest ideas and technologies to be applied for effective disaster management is still awaited.

The seminar was held with this view, and it collected enthusiastic 40 participants from central governments and universities. Two officials were sent from Thailand, Lao PDR, and Cambodia where common flood disaster problem lies in the Mekong River.

Presentations were provided by several organizations including ADRC, UN OCHA Kobe, Japan Meteorological Agency, Asian Institute of Technology, Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan, and PASCO. Among topics were current disaster management system in Vietnam, disaster information management, leading-edge techniques for disaster management by remote sensing, and the data distribution from meteorological satellite. Mr. Arakida, ADRC Senior Researcher, made a presentation about GLIDE system. In many participants' opinions, future ADRC cooperative projects would be implemented with not only bilateral but also multilateral framework. For more information, please contact Mr. Arakida at arakida@adrc.or.jp.

➤ **ADRC Staff Profiles No. 16**
□ **Mr. Tetsushi Kurita, Senior Researcher**

8 months has already passed since I joined ADRC from Tokyo Electric Power Services Co., Ltd. (TEPSCO). My field of expertise is earthquake engineering. I had been doing research on seismic ground motion and earthquake damage estimation in TEPSCO. Since TEPSCO is an affiliate company of the electric company,

I have worked on the earthquake engineering for earthquake disaster prevention at electric power facilities, mainly focusing on evaluation of the characteristics of seismic ground motion in the Kanto (Greater Tokyo) district and earthquake damage estimation. These projects are important for better seismic design and earthquake disaster prevention at electric power facilities. In terms of overseas experiences, I was assigned to a mission to evaluate the seismic risk of major Turkey cities in 2002.

It is a good experience for me to work as a member of ADRC in Kobe and learn a lesson from the Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake. It would be my honor to utilize my experiences for promoting further disaster prevention activities in the Asian region with ADRC.



➤ **JSCE Earthquake Engineering Symposium held in Osaka**

From December 9 to 12, 2003, the 27th JSCE (Japan Society of Civil Engineering) Earthquake Symposium was held at Osaka, Japan, and 280 latest earthquake engineering studies were reported.

Dr. Kurita, ADRC Senior Researcher, reported at the session of "Urban Disaster Reduction and Real Time Disaster Reduction". The title of presentation was "Seismic Risk Estimation for Principal Cities in Turkey". The main objective of this study was to estimate the seismic risks for principal cities (Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir) in Turkey. In this study, damage to structures was calculated based on a vulnerability function, which has a relationship between the ground-motion intensity and the damage probability. Damage to human was obtained as a function of building damage. The economic losses were evaluated from the physical loss and production losses. Following results were described as the conclusions. (1) If the large earthquake strikes Istanbul, the occurrence of huge damage is predicted. It would affect the Turkish economy and finance seriously. (2) The retrofitting of building is effective to reduce the casualties and the economic losses, since it reduces the heavily damaged buildings. For more information, please contact Dr. Kurita at kurita@adrc.or.jp.

➤ **Announcement**

In January 2004, ADRC has welcomed one Senior Expert Mr. Anil Sinha, Former Executive Director of India National Center for Disaster Management, and two Visiting Researchers; Mr. Rahmonov Suhrobsho from Tajikistan and Mr. Nguyen Thanh Phung from Vietnam.

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

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