



ADRC

Highlights

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➤ U.S.A. joins ADRC as Advisor Country

The United States of America joined ADRC as an advisor country on 8 March, 2004. The intention of U.S.A. to be an ADRC advisor country was expressed by a letter addressed to Chairman Dr. Shigeru Itoh, and a representative of USAID participated in the 6th ADRC International meeting held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 6 February 2004, where she introduced this letter and was warmly welcomed with applause from the delegates of ADRC member countries.

Following due procedures, U.S.A. is now an advisor country of ADRC. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) would represent U.S.A. at ADRC. ADRC believes that the participation of U.S.A., with its rich expertise in disaster reduction will benefit ADRC member countries and be of great value to mitigating disasters in Asia.



OFDA Operations Room

ADRC Executive

Director Mr. Satoru Nishikawa visited USAID on 25 March where he met the administrator Mr. Andrew S. Natsios and his colleagues and discussed the ways to further USAID's collaboration with ADRC and our member countries. Mr. Nishikawa was given the opportunity to visit the OFDA Operations Center and to be briefed on the Response Management Team.

➤ 31st session of WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones was held in Colombo Sri Lanka, 1-6 March 2004

The 31st session of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones was held on 1-6 March 2004 in Colombo, hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka. It brought together representatives of Member countries of the Panel, observers and representatives of the Panel Secretariat (WMO, UNESCAP and the Technical Support Unit). The main objective of the session was to promote and coordinate measures designed to reduce the negative impact caused by tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. Despite modern technological advances, countries in the region continue to suffer from violent vagaries of tropical cyclones. Therefore, capacity building of Panel Members aiming

at enhancing regional cooperation and coordination of activities for mitigation of tropical cyclones is crucial.

ADRC participated in the session, and Senior Researcher Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki presented its activities in the field of disaster reduction and proposed the areas of possible cooperation with the Panel. A one-day technical conference on "Improved Cyclone-related Forecasting Services and Disaster Combating Strategies" was held on this occasion to present and discuss cyclone related disaster combating strategies of Member countries and strategies to improve cyclone related forecasting services. For more information, please contact Ms. Tsunozaki (tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp).



➤ ADRC Staff Profiles No. 17 □ Mr. Takuzo Ishii, Senior Researcher

Dispatched from Osaka Gas Co., Ltd, the largest gas company in the western Japan, I joined ADRC as a Senior Researcher on October, 2003.

At the time of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in Kobe in 1995, Osaka Gas Co., Ltd suffered terribly. It took more than two months to recover the whole gas system, and until then, I had a hard time carrying out my responsibilities including reconstruction/restoration of gas pipes for approximately one million households.

Thanks to great support by Japan's other domestic gas companies, we could be rehabilitated smoothly. I was much impressed by cooperation during the disaster period. Based on these experiences, I hope I can make continuous contribution to ADRC activities.



➤ New staff has joined ADRC

Mr. Akihiro Teranishi has joined ADRC as of April 1, 2004. Senior Researcher Mr. Teranishi has been engaged in disaster management for lifeline, especially water supply and sewerage systems, at Hyogo Prefecture Government. Ms. Ayumi Shirasaka has also joined ADRC as a research assistant.

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

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