



# ADRC Highlights

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➤ **ADRC Cooperative Project 2003 (Singapore)**  
□ **International Urban Search & Rescue Course**

From January 12th to 23rd, 2004, ADRC cooperated with the Singapore Civil Defense Force (SCDF) in inviting 9 participants from ADRC's member countries (Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand) to join the International Urban Search and Rescue training course.

Since 2000, the SCDF has been providing training opportunities for overseas experts to learn tactics and techniques used in urban search and rescue (USAR) situations. Conducted in a wide range of the Civil Defense Academy (CDA)'s training facilities, one of the highest level facilities in the Asian Region, the training course included not only lectures to learn the concepts and principles for managing and handling rescue operations in USAR settings, but also physical exercises to acquire the special skills and techniques for USAR, such as shoring methods, debris tunneling, search procedures with breathing apparatus, and collapsed building rescue.



The course content was highly evaluated by the participants and will be of great help for their future disaster management work. ADRC would like to continue to be active and involved in this training course for its member countries. For more information, please contact Mr. Takuzo Ishii ([ishii@adrc.or.jp](mailto:ishii@adrc.or.jp)).

➤ **JICA Seminar on Disaster Management JFY2003**

Asian Disaster Reduction Center conducted "JICA Seminar on Disaster Management JFY2003" from 18<sup>th</sup> January to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2004, as the fourth yearly training seminar since JFY 2000. This year, 15 trainees were invited from 12 countries including Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Nicaragua, Philippines, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, and Venezuela.

In order to improve their disaster management capabilities by learning Japanese disaster management system, the program content of the seminar focused on the following topics: (1) Basic concepts of disaster management, (2) Disaster management of the Japanese central government, (3) Disaster management of the Japanese local government (4) Role of private sector and

mass media, (5) Countermeasures by Disaster Type, (6) International Cooperation for Disaster Reduction, and (7) Thematic Disaster Management.

At the beginning of the seminar, each trainee made a presentation on disaster situation and disaster management of their countries. Then, they visited various ministries and related organizations to learn comprehensive Japanese disaster management system.



Evacuation Drill in Elementary School

As for the formal visit to the central government at Tokyo, they visited the Cabinet Office, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and Japan Meteorological Agency. As for the visit to local government, they were given lectures at the Hyogo Prefecture's state-of-art Disaster Management Center, Kobe city government and Hokudan-town (in Awaji island), which are severely affected by Kobe Earthquake 1995.

Among characteristics of the seminar was to have a various opportunity to learn about disaster management at community levels. For instance, in Kitashukugawa elementary school near Kobe city, the trainees attended evacuation drill jointly conducted by elementary school teachers, fire-fighting station and community voluntary organization for disaster reduction. Another example was the town watching and hazard mapping exercise. The trainees walked around one of Kobe's community areas where they found present and hidden risks. Upon returning from the town watching, the trainees learned how to develop and manipulate hazard map.



Town Watching Exercise in Kobe

Trainees studied diligently in every lecture and practice for 6 weeks, and in the last week, the trainees reported their action plans utilizing what they had learned in Japan.

ADRC will continue such a program in the following years. For more information, please ask Ms. Nakamura ([nakamura@adrc.or.jp](mailto:nakamura@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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