



# ADRC Highlights

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➤ **ADRC Cooperative Project FY2003**  
□ **Earthquake Disaster Management Seminar in Mongolia**

From March 20 to 23, 2004, a seminar entitled "Vulnerability and Risk Assessment of the Possible Earthquake and Measures to Prevent Earthquake Disaster in Urban City" was co-organized by the Ministry of Nature and Environment (MNE) and the National Agency for Disaster Management (NADM) of Mongolian Government and ADRC in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. This is one of cooperative projects between the member countries and ADRC.

Mongolia is located in the middle of Eurasian Continent where large intra-plate earthquakes on Richter scale 8 class have occurred 4 times in the 20th century alone. While such factors as traditional housing style called "gel" (nomadic tent) and low population density may have not caused catastrophic damage in the past, earthquake disaster risk management is now essential for sustainable development of Mongolia. As in other Asian urban areas, vulnerability in Mongolia has been increasing due to transformation of lifestyle (shifting from nomadic pastoral system to urban settlement), rapid increase of population and urbanization as well as industrialization.



Two-day long seminar was held twice consecutively, bringing 60 participants in total. Participants of earlier course were decision-making level officials of central and local governments, while working-level officials joined the latter one.

Mongolian lecturers were invited from NADM, Ministry of Infrastructures, Research Center of Astronomy and Geophysics, Mongolian University of Science and Technology and Mongolian Association of Civil Engineers, and they described Mongolian seismic situation and present countermeasures for earthquake disasters from view points of scientific and governmental approaches. Mr. Satoru Ohya (Member of Board of Directors, World Seismic Safety Initiative (WSSI)), Dr. Yasuhiro Hayashi (Professor of Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University) and Dr. Tomohiko Hatori (ADRC Senior Researcher) were invited as lecturers from Japan. They provided and shared Japan's experience and expertise on earthquake disaster risk management toward future application in Mongolia. Inspired by those beneficial lectures, most participants joined lively discussions with the lecturers

at Q & A session.

Recommendation statement to the government of Mongolia on earthquake disaster management will be summarized on the basis of participants' discussions. For more information, please ask Dr. Hatori at [hatori@adrc.or.jp](mailto:hatori@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report**  
□ **Mr. Rahmonov Suhrobsho from Tajikistan**

Since 2001, I have been working, as a chief computer operator, for the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (MESCD) of the Republic of Tajikistan. Among my responsibilities is to collect information and organize database on disaster situation. Established in 1998, the MESCD is the state authority which can make decision in the field of protection of the nation's population and territory from emergency situations. The MESCD is also authorized to conduct a state policy and carry out prevention and response during emergency situations. The MESCD can also handle the civil defense army, equipped with necessary gears and techniques.



93% of Tajikistan's territory is mountainous, and the mountains glaciers are the source of its rivers. Tajikistan is prone to earthquakes and floods. Notably Sarez Earthquake in 1911 was a serious one. Rock fall wiped out the village of Usoi, having created a lake and affected 5 million people in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan.

As an ADRC visiting researcher, I have participated in the JICA seminar (disaster management course) and visited many important institutions, facilities and exhibition related disaster management. Having collected much important information on disaster management in Japan, I would like to organize seminars on disaster management (earthquake, floods, landslide and first aid) and publish some instructional booklets for disaster reduction in Tajikistan.

➤ **Recent Natural Disasters in Asia:**  
**Storm in Myanmar**

A storm with winds of over 160 km/h killed at least 140 people, left 18,000 homeless, and extensive damage to the infrastructure in the four towns of Pauktaw, Myebon, Sittway and Kyaukpyu in Rakhine State of Myanmar. (May 27, 2004, OCHA Report)

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

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