



ADRC Highlights

Vol.105

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

November 16, 2004

➤ **Recent ISDR Activities**

□ **Tenth Session of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction – Geneva, 7-8 October**

The 10th meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR-10) was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 7-8 October 2004, gathering 62 Task Force members and 86 observers. ADRC, as a Task Force member on Disaster Reduction, was represented by Mr. Kitamoto, Executive Director, and two Senior Researchers, Ms. Tsunozaki and Mr. Arakida.



Active discussion took place among the members of the IATF and observer countries, focusing on the future of IATF to reduce risk and vulnerability to disasters. Main topics were: 1) expectations for and challenges of the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR), 2) how to advance the Strategy, 3) activities of the Working Groups, and 4) how to improve the role and modalities of IATF.

ADRC reported on the recent activities of ADRC to promote cooperation in disaster reduction, including the development of the GLIDE initiative (GLObal unique disaster IDentifier), in particular, on the automatic generation of GLIDE numbers which started on 3 May. For more information, please visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/>.

□ **Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the WCDR – Geneva, 11-12 October**

The second session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (PrepCom2) was held on 11-12 October 2004, following the IATF/DR-10, also at the UN in Geneva. Over 400 participants attended the meeting and a lively discussion took place to advance the preparatory process. A new version of the draft programme of action was discussed to further incorporate the comments from more countries. An open-ended drafting committee to continue working on the draft programme of action was established. Discussion on the political declaration is expected to begin shortly. For more information, please visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/eng/wcdr/wcdr-index.htm>.



➤ **ADRC Dispatched Research Team to Niigata**

A devastating earthquake, measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale, hit the northern Japan at 17:56, 23 October 2004 (JST).

The damage was the most catastrophic since the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in Japan. On 29-30 October, ADRC dispatched two senior researchers, Dr. Kurita and Dr. Hatori, to the affected area, in and around Nagaoka City of Niigata Pref. The team observed that local and central governments of Japan, private sector, volunteers and local residents are collaborating on recovery and rehabilitation, based on the lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. The earthquake caused many landslides and slope failures which resulted in heavy damage on lifelines (road, electricity, telephone, water, gas, etc.) and isolated the communities. The report is now available at ADRC website (http://www.adrc.or.jp/publications/Niigata_EQ/Niigata_Earthquake.htm).

➤ **ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report**

□ **Mr. Shyam Sunder from India**

India has always been vulnerable to natural disasters on account of its unique geo-climatic conditions. Floods, Landslides, Hailstorm, Fire, Cyclones, Earthquakes, Avalanches and Drought have been recurrent phenomena. About 60% of the landmass is prone to earthquakes of various intensities; over 40 million hectares is prone to floods; about 8% of the total area is prone to cyclones and 68% of the area is susceptible to drought.



In India, the concerned State Governments are responsible to manage the disaster at ground level. The Union Government supplements the efforts by extending logistics and financial supports as well as coordinate efforts at national and international levels. In addition, many secondary organizations/Institutions also supplements efforts by assisting forecasting, providing relief and rescue operation, supporting preparedness and Mitigation and Human Resource development. A National Contingencies Action Plan (NCAP) for dealing with contingencies arising in the wake of natural disasters has been formulated by the Government. The NCAP identifies the initiatives required to be taken by various Central Ministries/Departments in the wake of natural calamities. Each State Government has relief manuals/codes which identify the role of each officer in the State for managing the natural disasters.

I joined ADRC this October, as a Visiting Researcher to share experiences of my country on disaster management and study the disaster management system of Japan and other member countries of ADRC. The experience will be useful to perform my duties and to minimize the effect of the disasters in India. Besides, I also want to promote cooperation between India and Japan and other Asian countries.

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/)
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