



# ADRC Highlights

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## Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

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### ➤ JICA Seminar on Disaster Management JFY2004

Asian Disaster Reduction Center conducted "JICA Seminar on Disaster Management JFY2004" from 13 January to 18 February 2005, as the fifth yearly training seminar since JFY 2000. This year, 13 trainees were invited from 11 countries including Benin, China, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Malaysia, Panama, Syria, Tanzania, and Turkey.

In order to improve their disaster management capabilities by learning Japanese disaster management system, the program consisted 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.

With regard to 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. At local governments, they were given lectures at the Hyogo Prefecture's state-of-art Disaster Management Center, and Kobe city government.

Among characteristics of the seminar was to have a various opportunity to learn about disaster management at community levels. Town watching and hazard mapping exercise were good examples. The trainees walked around one of Kobe's community areas where they found present and underlying risks. Upon returning from the town watching, the trainees learned how to develop and manipulate hazard map.

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 contact Mr. Teranishi ([teranishi@adrc.or.jp](mailto:teranishi@adrc.or.jp)).

### ➤ ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report □ Mr. Ross Sovann from Cambodia

As more than 85% of the territory lies in the lower basin of Mekong River, Cambodia is highly susceptible to floods caused by monsoon rainwater. Almost every year, floods wash away dams, destroy crops and damage homes and other community infrastructures. They also cause loss of lives, affects livelihood and hinder the development processes, and aggravate poverty. The flood in 2000 caused 347 lives and damage of US \$ 157 millions.

As a result of experiencing recurring floods, the Government of Cambodia has established the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) in 1995 as an inter-ministerial level organization under the Council of Ministers chaired by the Prime Minister to assist the government by providing necessary recommendations, coordination, dissemination of information, and disaster response.



Since June 2002, I have been serving as a Disaster Management and Legal Advisor to the NCDM of Cambodia. From January this year, I have joined ADRC as a Visiting Researcher (VR) and will stay until July 2005.

Japan is one of the most disaster-prone countries to natural disasters, as it is frequently suffered by catastrophic disasters such as typhoons, torrential rains, floods, and landslides due to its rugged topography. Much experience in disaster reduction with excellent organizational structure and wise application of high-level technology into disaster management practices has made Japan ideal to disaster reduction efforts. As a consequence, Japan has become globally a central institution for learning and research for disaster management practices.

While staying in Japan, I would like to focus on the following two aspects (1) Existing laws, policies and other frameworks related to disaster management in Japan, and (2) Processes, experiences, and lessons used to address the challenges during implementation of the existing legal foundations, which would also be useful for Cambodia. It is my personal and professional hope that I could promote cooperation between Cambodia and Japan.

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

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