



# ADRC Highlights

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➤ **Japanese Government Dispatches Survey Team to the Tsunami Affected Countries**

Approximately two and a half months after the tragic disaster of 26 December 2004, a delegation of the Japanese Government visited Thailand and Sri Lanka to assess the damage caused by the earthquake and tsunami, and to investigate the progress of the reconstruction and recovery activities as well as plans. Headed by Mr. Hamaguchi of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT), the team consisted of representatives from 14 ministries and organizations, including Cabinet Office, MLIT, Fire Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). Ms. Takako Chinoi, Researcher of ADRC, joined the team.

During the survey, the recent situations and recovery plans were explained by the officials of departments related to the disaster in the central and local governments of both countries, followed by an exchange of views. The team visited the affected sites and evacuation camps to see the conditions and to hear from the local people who had experienced the disaster. In many areas destroyed by the tsunami, the affected populations had been moved into temporary housing, in some cases to permanent housing. Relief effort in response to the tsunami, such as repairing infrastructure and constructing temporary housing, has been carried out by the Governments, NGOs, etc.



At the same time as developing a recovery plan, the both countries were interested in introducing disaster mitigation plans focusing on public awareness, capacity building, etc. For instance, in Sri Lanka, the President participated in the meeting to discuss the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Bill, which had been deliberated at the Congress.



From now on, the recovery of the local economy such as tourism and fishery will be essential for the affected communities for sustainable economic and social development. In Phuket, Thailand, as one of the activities for the recovery of the local economy, they have initiated campaigns to attract sightseers again.

This survey covered a wide range of activities for

disaster reduction and recovery such as public awareness, capacity building, analysis of the damage and research of the disaster response and recovery plans. The report of the survey will be issued by the Japanese Government soon. For more information, please contact Ms. Chinoi ([chinoi@adrc.or.jp](mailto:chinoi@adrc.or.jp)).

➤ **The Regional Workshop on Effective Tropical Cyclone Warning was held in Shanghai, China**

The workshop of Typhoon Committee “Effective Tropical Cyclone Warning” was held on 24-28 April 2005 in Shanghai, China, hosted by China Meteorological Agency and relevant organizations. The workshop collected 48 participants from 12 countries and 2 organizations

The workshop began with the special lecture by Mr. Katsuhiko Abe of WMO, emphasizing the significance of this workshop and Hyogo Framework of Action of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) held in Kobe in January 2005. Presentations made by other participants followed in five sections in total.

The workshop provided the participants including meteorologists, hydrologists and disaster management experts, with an opportunity to exchange information of current activities, to develop their capacity in disaster management, and to recognize their common concern and the areas of work where they are to make efforts.

Mr. Akihiro Teranishi, Senior Researcher of ADRC, made a presentation, providing the concept and methodology of “Measuring Vulnerability and Coping Capacity” in the section titling “Impact and vulnerability analysis”. He described examples of disaster management capacity self-check sheet for citizens and governments. Mr. Teranishi also introduced the concept and good practices of Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) approach which ADRC and United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) Kobe have developed and been promoting. After the plenary meeting, the participants further discussed in small groups, based on individual themes.



Through this workshop, it was emphasized that this kind of joint workshop held for relevant practitioners were much effective. For more information, please contact Mr. Teranishi ([teranishi@adrc.or.jp](mailto:teranishi@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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