



ADRC Highlights

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➤ **Multinational Survey Mission to
Tsunami-Affected Areas in India**

On 8-13 April 2005, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted a multinational survey with government officials and experts from member and advisor countries in the coastal areas of the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Pondicherry in India, severely damaged by the Tsunami on 26 December 2004.

The objectives of the mission were to: (1) assess the status of the damage and post-tsunami recovery, (2) learn from the lessons of the tsunami disaster for further developing effective disaster prevention measures, and (3) provide suggestions to the affected areas in the context of disaster risk reduction for the future.

Among the ADRC member countries, nine officers and experts from Armenia, India, Japan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan joined the mission. A representative from France and two from the United States of America (USA), as advisor countries, participated in the activities in Delhi.



Various kinds of temporary shelters had already been constructed and provided to a number of people affected by the tsunami, and a basic level of subsistence had been reconstructed for the residents. It was observed that the recovery of livelihood of the affected people is a priority issue at this stage of rehabilitation and reconstruction, in particular, of the fishermen, who were most severely affected. They have received a special compensation from the government for what they had lost in the disaster. However, continuous support is required for their effective recovery of the communities.

On the final day, the survey mission visited the National Institute for Disaster Management (NIDM) and reported to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Government of India, on the observations and recommendations. ADRC wishes to take the opportunity to extend its sincere appreciation to MoHA and NIDM, State Relief Commissioners and District Collectors of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Podicherry for the kind assistance extended to the mission. A brief preliminary report in English is available upon request from Mr. Takuzo Ishii (ishii@adrc.or.jp). A final report is being prepared jointly with the participants of the team for submission to the Indian Government. For more information, please contact Mr. Ishii or Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki (tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **The 11th Meeting of IATF/DR held in Geneva
on 24-26 May**

The meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction (IATF-11) was held in Geneva on 24-26 May 2005, gathering 62 members and 100 observers. ADRC was represented by Executive Director Mr. Kitamoto, Senior Expert Mr. Murata, and two Senior Researchers, Ms. Tsunozaki and Mr. Teranishi.

The themes of the meeting include: (1) Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), (2) Outline of the Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the ISDR, (3) External evaluation of the ISDR Secretariat, (4) Preparation for the International Disaster Reduction Day (12 October in 2005), and (5) Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning System (IOTEWS) and Recovery with a Risk Reduction Approach.

The HFA, adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR), complements the Yokohama Strategy and provides the basic concepts on disaster risk reduction for the decade 2005-2015 that all stakeholders are expected to take into consideration for its implementation. Active discussion took place among the participants on how to effectively and efficiently implement the HFA. The need for strengthening national platforms and disaster risk reduction activities with national and regional perspectives was emphasized throughout the meeting.



A side meeting on the International Recovery Platform (IRP) was held in the context of the IATF-11 to build on the results of the International Seminar on Post-disaster Recovery held in Kobe on 11-13 May. It was agreed that the IRP should constitute a thematic network of the ISDR system with the objective to follow up on the HFA's recommendation "to incorporate disaster risk reduction into post-disaster recovery, through sharing knowledge and accounts of best practices, developing capacities and recovery assessment methodologies".

With regards to the development of the IOTEWS coordinated by the UN, it was confirmed that the overall plan is in the implementation stage and that many projects by countries and organizations are being carried out. ADRC expressed its intention to be actively involved in the process to contribute to strengthening the capacity of communities and countries.

The next meeting has been proposed to be held in Geneva in November 2005. For further information on the IATF-11, please visit <http://www.unisdr.org/>.

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