



# ADRC Highlights

Vol.121

*Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News*

1 August 2005

## ➤ ADRC welcomes Pakistan as a New Member

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has expressed their intention to join Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), based on its invitation. As of 26 July 2005, Pakistan has been welcomed as ADRC's 25th member country, with the consent of existing member countries.

Pakistan is a country located in the northwestern part of South Asia, with a total area of 796 thousand square kilometers, and 148 million inhabitants. Major disasters are flood, drought and earthquake. ADRC is looking forward to Pakistan's active participation in its activities to reduce the negative impact of natural disasters and to achieve sustainable development in the Asian region.

## ➤ ADRC exchanged an MoU with WMO

On 26 July 2005, ADRC exchanged the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for developing close cooperation with a view to achieving their shared objectives in the disaster reduction field. The areas of the cooperation are as follows: 1) Exchange of information and documents, 2) Exchange of representation in current procedures and practices, any conference and meetings, 3) Hold consultations on matters of joint interest and on topics relating to the collaboration, 4) Design and implement joint cooperation projects, and 5) Exchange of relevant publications.

## ➤ ADRC participated in the National Assessment Mission conducted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (UNESCO/IOC)

In April 2005, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO held the "Second International Coordination Meeting for the Development of a Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for the Indian Ocean" in Mauritius. The Meeting adopted the Mauritius Declaration, which invited the countries of the Indian Ocean rim region to complete an assessment of their requirements and capacity needs for an effective national tsunami warning and mitigation system, with the support of the UNESCO/IOC. So far, 18 countries requested IOC's assistance for the national assessments. Upon these requests, IOC, together with UN/ISDR and WMO, has been dispatching assessment missions composed of relevant experts to the countries.

Ms. Akiko Nakamura, researcher of ADRC, participated in the mission to Myanmar and Pakistan from 10 to 15 June 2005. She made a presentation on the comprehensive overview of the tsunami disaster management system in Japan, and actively joined the discussion about the situation of tsunami warning system, along with questionnaires made by the mission. Some of the questionnaire were; (1) Authority and Coordination, (2) Tsunami Warning and Monitoring, (3) Tsunami Warning Response and Emergency Preparedness, (4) Tsunami Hazard and Risks, and (5) Tsunami Public Awareness/Preparedness and Community Level Activities. These are to identify the problem and assess the capacity for the implementation of a tsunami early warning and mitigation system.



ADRC is planning to send its staff members to the next missions to Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives and Thailand. For more information, please contact Ms. Nakamura ([nakamura@adrc.or.jp](mailto:nakamura@adrc.or.jp)).

## ➤ WCDR follow-up event held at ECOSOC, UN Headquarters

Taking the opportunity of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), an ISDR side-event hosted by the Government of Japan was held on 13 July 2005 at the UN Headquarters to brief on the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), an outcome of the WCDR. At this side-event, the follow-up activities being carried out after the WCDR, among others, those in Uganda, Jamaica and Bangladesh as well as the International Recovery Platform (IRP), were introduced. For more information, please contact Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki ([tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp](mailto:tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp)).

## ➤ New Visiting Researchers at ADRC

In July 2005, two new Visiting Researchers have come to ADRC. They are Ms. Maria Matilde Limpahan Go, Local Government Operations Officer IV, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Philippines, and Ms. Dilor Mirzovatanovna Mirova, Chief Specialist of Management Unit, Minister's Office, Ministry of Emergency Situation and Civil Defence, Republic of Tajikistan.

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)  
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