



ADRC Highlights

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➤ ADRC started Tsunami Disaster Education Project in Thailand, funded by UNESCO/IOC

It is widely known that an 11 year-old British girl named Tilly Smith who was on holiday with her family in Phuket, Thailand, saved many people's lives from the Indian Ocean tsunami on 26 December 2004. She warned her parents of the tsunami phenomenon, which she learned about in school. The result of the questionnaire survey, conducted by Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) in the tsunami-affected countries, also verified the need for disaster education in school.

To promote disaster risk reduction from an educational approach, ADRC, in collaboration with the Thai government, has started an "Education for Disaster Preparedness in Primary School" project funded by UNESCO/IOC. The project aims to transfer Japan's disaster education knowledge to school in affected areas in Thailand, and consequently, to encourage conversation on natural disasters among families as well as to increase the whole community's capabilities to natural disasters.

The main activities of the project are as follows: (1) to discuss about teaching materials & know-how applicable to the affected areas; (2) to conduct a three-day workshop with pilot classes and evacuation drills in the Thai's Phuket and Phang-Nga provinces, for evaluation of the materials & know-how and (3) to organize a seminar on tsunami disaster education for teachers, educators and government officials from the six southern Thai provinces to facilitate the dissemination of the completed materials & know-how.

The project's main feature is to develop and distribute a teaching guide to deliver tsunami disaster education know-how as a first attempt. It was strongly expected, as guides were made only for students before.

On 19 January 2006, ADRC organized a consultative committee meeting, to discuss the contents of education materials for school children. It was attended by Mr. Yanagi, Deputy Director of UNESCO/IOC, Dr. Kiyono, Associate Professor of Kyoto University (Japan), Mr. Kintsu, Expert on Disaster Education of Hyogo Prefectural Board of Education (Japan), government officials of DDPM, Thailand, teachers from schools and representatives from UNESCO, UNICEF and JICA Bangkok. The participants actively exchanged their views and opinions from both aspects of education and disaster reduction. For more information, please contact Mr. Teranishi at teranishi@adrc.or.jp.



➤ IRP Secretariat Welcomes a New Official □ Mr. Anil K. Sinha, Programme Advisor

During my professional career of over 25 years at senior levels in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), the last more than ten years have been in the field of Disaster and Risk Management at national and international levels. I have multilateral interfaces in this field, which include close interaction and collaboration with a number of international agencies like UNDP, ADRC, World Bank, FAO and UNESCO.

For the last two years as the Senior Expert of ADRC, I have carried out several important assignments such as analysis and preparation of country case studies/comparative studies, organization of international conferences. For the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Kobe in 2005, I presented a comparative study and concept paper on International Recovery Platform (IRP) along with World Bank, ILO and UNDP.

As Executive Director of National Center for Disaster Management, the highest national body responsible for Disaster Management in India, I have provided professional and technical leadership and guidance to the team of professional experts and managers in conducting several assessments, designing, planning and conducting of training and other programs / projects in this field.

It is my pleasure to join IRP Secretariat in January 2006, as a Programme Advisor. IRP is undoubtedly an important follow up of the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) adopted in the WCDR. Recovery from disasters is a highly complex process involving a large number of players at multiple levels with long-term implications. Often, if not addressed properly, it has been found across the world that societies end up 'recreating risks' that in the first instance led to the disaster. In this context the role of the IRP is clearly cut out to help address the whole issue and the process of recovery in a holistic manner which helps in reduction of disasters and thus leads to sustainable development.

Given the experience of ADRC as a lead regional organization and with its network of 25 countries, and Kobe-Hyogo as an international hub of disaster management, under the leadership of Hyogo Prefectural Government, IRP will seek to leverage this synergy to the mutual advantage of all these and other institutions. IRP offers tremendous opportunities full of challenges, of course, to start focusing and addressing the whole issue of recovery with the underlying motto of 'build back better' so as to usher in a new paradigm of building safer tomorrow.



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

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