



ADRC Highlights

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➤ The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2006 was Concluded Successfully

The "Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2006" was held from 15 to 17 March 2006 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The Conference was organized by the Government of Republic of Korea, Government of Japan, United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). It was participated by 146 people including high dignitaries and officials from Republic of Korea and twenty-four other countries, mainly from Asia, along with representatives of UN and international organizations, media, and NGOs.



Participants of ACDR 2006

□ Impediments and Issues Identified

Held one year after the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR), the ACDR 2006 aimed to review the progress made, identify the challenges, and promote the implementation of disaster risk reduction in the context of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, with a view to ensuring sustainable social and economic development in the Asian region.



NEMA Administrator Mr. Moon

At the opening session, Mr. Won-Kyong Moon, Administrator of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) of Republic of Korea, made an opening remarks, while the Honorable Senior Vice-Minister Chiken Kakazu delivered a congratulatory message on behalf of the Government of Japan. After that, two keynote speeches were made by Mr. Salvano Briceno, Director of UN/ISDR and Mr. Masayuki Kitamoto, Executive Director of ADRC, respectively.

During the sessions, the current implementation status of disaster risk reduction initiatives in Asia was reviewed and innovative strategies, guidelines and tools in support of the implementation of the HFA were

presented and discussed. A number of impediments and issues were identified, and among them were "Need to establish timely and user friendly community alerting systems", "How to integrate DRR into development, a pervading issue" and "How to broaden and enhance involvement of all in DRR, including community groups, parent-teacher associations, and business groups, among others".

□ Towards the Realization of the Strategic Goals of the HFA 2005-2015

Throughout the Conference, the presentations and discussions demonstrated significant progress in implementing the HFA at the country and regional levels. Towards the realization of the goal of resilient nations and communities, it was decided to pursue, among others, the following course of action:



Public Forum on Day 2

- (1) Support the implementation of the HFA priorities for actions
- (2) Develop a strategic national action plan to implement the HFA
- (3) Promote a comprehensive, integrated and holistic approach to disaster risk reduction through the following strategies:
 - (a) Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development and promoting multisectoral cooperation among stakeholders
 - (b) Integration of disaster risk reduction in all phases of the disaster risk management
 - (c) Enhancing early warning systems and efficient sharing of disaster risk information
 - (d) Crosscutting Issues (e.g. Involvement of NGOs)

On the final day, the Conference summary was read out by Mr. Ki-Sung Bang, Director-General of Headquarters of Recovery and Relief, NEMA.

ACDR 2006 paid tribute to the Government of Republic of Korea for their generous hosting of this important event. After the great success of its first time international conference, NEMA is expected to further promote disaster risk reduction in Republic of Korea.

The conference was repeatedly broadcasted on NHK TV news (BS ch1) on and after 15 March 2006. The Conference Summary and other related documents will be made available on our website. For more information, please contact Ms. Kodama (kodama@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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