



# ADRC Highlights

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## Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

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### ➤ ADRC Dispatch Assessment Team to Java

ADRC and the International Recovery Platform (IRP) have sent a preliminary damage and needs assessment team to Jakarta and Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 30 May to 4 June 2006. In Jakarta, the assessment team met Mr. Triutomo, Head of Disaster Mitigation, National Disaster Management Coordinating Board (BAKORNAS), who reports that the Indonesian government has already started conducting a damage and needs assessment in the affected area in order to formulate a recovery plan. ADRC and IRP offered to help with recovery efforts in the affected areas and confirmed their intent to assist with the institutional development of BAKORNAS.



In Yogyakarta, the team conducted a survey that included interviews with villagers and relevant organizations in heavily damaged Bantul, south of Yogyakarta. This earthquake did not cause serious damage to major infrastructural components. The city center, which is located some distance away from the Opak fault was not severely damaged,

although some houses had collapsed. Rural areas along the fault, however, were severely affected by the earthquake. Most houses made of wood and bricks were totally destroyed (in some villages, more than 90% of the houses collapsed).

The team visited the area in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, when there was still a serious need for food and medical supplies, as well as for prompt housing reconstruction. According to local reports, the government planned to finish its search and rescue activities by 6 June, spend one-week on rehabilitation, and then move into the reconstruction phase, which will include housing reconstruction.

ADRC and IRP will further provide information to various experts in Indonesia through JICA or UN-led survey missions, and are willing to provide personnel or support for seminars for local government officials and the general public, if requested to do so by BAKORNAS. For more information, please contact Mr. Arakida ([arakida@adrc.or.jp](mailto:arakida@adrc.or.jp)).

### ➤ 3rd Public Symposium on Post-Disaster Recovery

The 3rd Public Symposium on Post-Disaster Recovery "Progress towards Hyogo Framework for Action" was held on 30 June 2006 in Kobe, Japan in commemoration of the first anniversary of the IRP. Co-organized by the IRP Secretariat, ADRC, Cabinet Office of Japan (CAO), Hyogo Prefectural Government, UNDP, UN/ISDR, and UN/OCHA Kobe, the event attracted 170 participants from 10 countries interested in the field of disaster reduction and recovery.

Following opening remarks by Mr. Tomio Saito, Deputy Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, Mr. Fumio Takeda, Deputy Director General of the Cabinet Office of Japan, and Mr. Sálvano Briceño, Director of UN/ISDR, the symposium featured a keynote speech, reports from three IRP hubs on their activities over the past year, and a panel discussion.

Mr. Andrew Maskrey, Chief of the Disaster Reduction Unit, UNDP gave the keynote speech. He stressed that the IRP's role is not only to support physical recovery, but



to contribute to mid- and long-term risk reduction during post-disaster recovery through the accumulation and sharing of lessons learned and best practices, capacity building assistance, and the development of standard methodologies for conducting needs and capacity assessments.

Mr. Sohel Khan, Programme Analyst of IRP Kobe, then introduced the first outcome of the IRP, a booklet entitled "Learning from Disasters: Guideline for Decision Makers" (chief editor: Prof. Ian Davis of Cranfield University). Next, reports were given by Dr. Pujiono, UN/OCHA Kobe, on the OCHA UNDAC Mission for the Leyte Landslide Disaster, by Mr. Masahiko Murata, Recovery Expert of the IRP Kobe, on the Pakistan and Leyte Mission for smooth transaction from relief to recovery, by Mr. Alfredo Lazarte, Director of ILO, on capacity building activities for better recovery, and by Mr. Praveen Pardeshi, Senior Adviser of UN/ISDR on the development of needs assessment methodologies.

Lastly, a panel discussion was moderated by Mr. Anil K. Sinha, Programme Advisor, IRP Secretariat. The panelists, Mr. Briceño, Mr. Maskrey, Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Director of CAO, and Mr. Koji Suzuki, Executive Director of ADRC, actively discussed their evaluations of the IRP's first year of activity and their expectations for the organization's future.

Thanks to the cooperation of 117 Broadband TV, the symposium was filmed, and can be viewed through the IRP website (<http://recoveryplatform.org/>). For more information, please contact Mr. Murata ([murata@recoveryplatform.org](mailto:murata@recoveryplatform.org)).

### ➤ ADRC Staff Profile No. 25

#### □ Dr. Kenpei KOJIKI, Senior Researcher of ADRC



It is my great pleasure to begin working with the ADRC this June and to utilize my knowledge and experience in the field of disaster reduction in Asia. I was born in China and came to Japan in 1987 to earn my doctorate, after having earned a Master's Degree in civil engineering in my home country.

My career experience covers seismic hazard analysis, estimation of ground motion for seismic design, dynamic response analysis for various types of structures, probabilistic seismic safety assessment, and earthquake-generated tsunami simulations.

It is important to make clear that national governments, municipalities, and individuals play distinct roles in disaster reduction in terms of primary losses, or losses caused by natural disasters, and secondary losses, or losses caused by inappropriate response measures to those events. The national government should take a strong leading role in preventing primary losses through technology development and regulation enhancement, while the members of society as a whole, from the international community down to the individual, are stakeholders in efforts to mitigate secondary losses.

Different countries face different kinds of natural disasters. A challenge faced by all of them, however, is that natural disaster reduction requires continuous long-term efforts and significant financial investments. I am reminded of a saying: "We are not inheriting the earth from our parents, but borrowing it from our children." We must return this beautiful earth to our children better than we found it, with a better living environment and a greater level of disaster resilience.

Working here at ADRC will be a new challenge for me. I will do my very best to serve the organization well, and look forward to working with all of you to achieve the goals of disaster reduction in Asia and around the world.

If you have comments or questions regarding this newsletter, please contact the ADRC.

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