



ADRC Highlights

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➤ Tsunami Awareness Workshops Using "Inamura no Hi" in India, Indonesia and Bangladesh

The ADRC, in cooperation with members of the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN), namely SEEDS, MERCY Malaysia, and the Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Center (BDPC), conducted workshops for educators and community leaders in India, Indonesia and Bangladesh to raise public awareness of tsunami disasters, using the Japanese tsunami educational story of "Inamura no Hi." These efforts were supported by UNESCO/IOC and UN/ISDR.

In the Andaman Islands, India, SEEDS held a workshop to serve as a kick-off event for the Andaman School Safety Initiative. The workshop was attended by about 40 participants, including representatives from the government of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the board of education, teachers, and school children, all of whom discussed the importance of disaster education for children and its integration into the school curriculum. SEEDS has been promoting this initiative in 40 schools in Andaman and Little Andaman to inculcate a culture of disaster safety in schools.



Booklets telling the story of "Inamura no Hi" were presented to school children, and an animated version of the story was shown to primary school children. They were very interested in the animated version since there were several scenes that reminded them of the tsunami disaster they experienced in December 2004. This underscores the importance of easy-to-understand materials in efforts to teach future generations about past experiences and disaster-related knowledge.

In Banda Aceh, Indonesia, a seminar and workshop for understanding tsunamis using the story of Inamura no Hi was conducted by MERCY Malaysia. The approximately 120 participants included lecturers from Syiah Kuala University, school teachers from Banda Aceh and representatives of local NGOs.

This workshop aimed to provide information on disasters and disaster education, and to inspire participants to think about ways to apply what they learned to the school education system in Banda Aceh. Participants received various disaster-related information, as well as disaster education tools for raising disaster awareness. They were then divided into 10 groups to discuss the concrete measures that could be taken based on the information provided.

Many unique ideas were proposed, including the creation of stories about the disaster experience (including information on ways to escape or minimize chaos), the creation of songs that convey the region's tsunami experience, and the production of a documentary film in which tsunami survivors tell their stories.

The event included a theatrical performance based on "Inamura no Hi" by students of the university and an Acehnese dance performed by children victims of disaster.

In Bangladesh, the BDPC conducted a program to enhance

tsunami awareness in coastal communities utilizing the "Inamura no Hi" booklets. The program was launched in Moheshkhali in Cox's Bazar district, Patharghata in the Barguna district, and Hatiya in the Noakhali district. Before the program was launched, an orientation meeting was held in Dhaka among representatives from these three areas to discuss the most effective ways of sensitively conducting tsunami awareness workshops in those communities.



The first day of the program in Hatiya, which is located in the Bay of Bengal, consisted of an introductory meeting among officers of the sub-district, NGO and religious group leaders, teacher representatives and the Cyclone Panel. A three-day workshop was then conducted to give participants an opportunity to learn about and discuss the "Inamura no Hi" story, tsunami-related information and the development of an early warning system in Bangladesh. The program targeted school teachers on the first day, NGO and community group leaders on the second day, and members of the Cyclone Panel on the third day. The participants asked a lot of questions and actively participated in the three workshops.

Similar programs are being developed for the other two areas as well, and it is hoped that workshop participants will spread the disaster-related knowledge they gain to other members of their local communities. For more information regarding this project, please contact Ms. Kodama (kodama@adrc.or.jp).

➤ ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report □ Mr. Sang Hyeok Kang, Republic of Korea



Typhoons Rusa (2002) and Maemi (2003) struck the Kangwon and Gyeongnam provinces of Korea and caused the most extensive flood damage recorded since the foundation of the Korean Meteorological Agency in 1927. Many cities were flooded in these two disasters, which not only destroyed important urban facilities and infrastructural components, but resulted in the extensive loss of human life. These floods are among the worst natural disasters ever experienced by the Korean people. Based on the lessons of these two typhoons, people are gradually coming to realize that water-related disasters are not entirely natural disasters, but disasters that can be minimized by human intervention. The Korean government is creating an action plan to reduce disaster risks that addresses both infrastructural and organizational issues.

To manage sustainable disaster risk, the Korean government established the National Education Training Center for Disaster Reduction in 2006. The main objective of the center is to raise disaster awareness among government officials who are involved in disaster management. Upon returning to my country, I will give a lecture on how to reduce water-related disaster risks, using the knowledge I gained during my stay in Japan.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the NEMA of Korea and ADRC for their support.

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

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