



ADRC Highlights

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➤ **Report from Sanghamitta College**
□ **Follow-Up to the Disaster Education Program in Galle, Sri Lanka**

As was reported in Vol. 161, the Disaster Education Program in Galle District, Sri Lanka, a cooperative effort between the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the ADRC, successfully concluded last March. Below is a report from one of the pilot schools, which has been continuing its disaster education program based on the action plan it created at the end of the project.

At Sanghamitta College, we planned to conduct a disaster awareness program in several stages. During the first stage, we conducted a lecture for all 12th grade students on 4 May and selected 50 of them to serve as volunteers.



On 25 May, a workshop arranged by the Divisional Director for Galle was conducted for the teachers in Galle District. Arrangements were made for the 50 volunteers mentioned above to participate in the same workshop. The teachers as well as the students gave presentations on the given topic at this workshop. Each trained student has been assigned responsibility for taking immediate action in the case of any emergency.

These students were given advice and guidance and divided into seven groups. Each group was then assigned a grade for which they would implement the program. The initial program launched for 8th grade students on 5 July proved successful, as did the program for 10th graders conducted on 2 August. We have therefore decided to carry out the program for the other grades on the following schedule:



11 September: Grade 11; 12 September: Grade 9;
13 September: Grade 7; 18 September: Grade 6;
19 September: Grade 5

In addition, we have decided to present a certificate to each student trainee that completes the program.

(Ms. M. F. Hasana, Sanghamitta College)

For more information, please contact Ms. Yoshida (yoshida@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **ADRC Visiting Researcher Report**
□ **Mr. Karybai uulu Kanatbek from the Kyrgyz Republic**

My name is Karybai uulu Kanatbek and I am from the Kyrgyz Republic. I am a Chief Specialist of the Department of External Relations and Investment of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic. My main responsibilities are to coordinate the activities of the Ministry of Emergency Situations with regard to the protection of the population and territories from emergency situations, particularly natural and technological disasters, to assist in promoting the interests of the ministry at international meetings, to prepare documents on emergency situations in the Kyrgyz Republic and its neighboring countries, and to maintain professional relations with other countries as a means of facilitating international negotiations.



The Kyrgyz Republic, which is located in the northeast part of Central Asia, has an area of 198,500 km² and a population of 5.1 million. It has high mountains whose average altitude is 2,750 meters above sea level. Its tallest is Pobeda peak, at an elevation of 7,439 m. More than 94% of the country is 1,000 m or more above sea level.

According to the Ministry of Emergency Situations, 20 of the 75 types of natural disasters that occur worldwide, occur in the Kyrgyz Republic. These include earthquakes, mudflows, floods, landslides, snow avalanches, and water logging.

The ADRC has been a coordinating body in the field of risk and hazard assessment, risk reduction and disaster management for the Asian region since its foundation, and it allows member countries not only to share theoretical knowledge learned in disaster related fields, but also to put such knowledge into practice. I think my purpose and position at the ADRC as a visiting researcher is very important. I expect to learn about disaster prevention and preparedness, disaster emergency measures, disaster recovery and reconstruction, earthquakes countermeasures, and community-based early warning systems. To learn more about these fields, I would like to visit various areas affected by recent earthquakes in Japan. I am sure my experience at the ADRC will be beneficial to my work.

After returning back home, I will utilize all the skills and knowledge I will have obtained during my stay in Japan. I am very thankful for the ADRC as well as the government of Japan for providing me with this opportunity to learn and gain experience from the ADRC and its member countries.