



ADRC Highlights

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● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Workshop on the "Training of Trainers on the Community-Based Hazard Map Development" in Chennai, India

The ADRC worked with the National Disaster Management Authority of India (NDMA) to hold a workshop entitled "Training of Trainers Program on Community-Based Hazard Map Development" on 20-21 December 2007. The workshop, financed by the UN/ESCAP "Multi-donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia" aimed at training local officials to be trainers through community-based hazard mapping and town watching activities designed to enhance the disaster resilience of communities.

Remarks were given at the opening session of the training by Prof. Chandra Vinod Menon, Member of NDMA, His Excellency Shir. Surjit Singh Baranala, Governor of Tamil Nadu, Dr. D Viswanathan, Vice Chancellor, Anna University Chennai and Mr. Koji Suzuki, Executive Director, ADRC. These were followed by presentations by Prof. R. Ramesh, Director of IOM, Anna University, and Mr. Anil Sinha, Program Advisor of International Recovery Platform (IRP) Secretariat, who spoke on the "Hazards Potential and Prevention Activities in the East Coast of India" and approaches to "Community Participation for Recovery," respectively. Dr. Yujiro Ogawa, Dean of Fuji Tokoha University then lectured on the "Lessons Learned from Japanese Disaster Experience", citing such previous Japanese disasters as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. He also explained the town watching and hazard mapping method.

On the second day of the training, town watching activities were conducted in Foreshore Estate, a coastal area that was heavily damaged by the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004. Since Foreshore Estate is situated between the Indian Ocean and Adayar Estuary, there were not enough evacuation locations and routes. Thus, problems related to evacuation and rescue activities can be expected to occur in the event of any future tsunami. The participants divided up into groups to identify the problems faced by Foreshore Estate by interviewing residents in the community. They displayed the problems identified on a map and discussed who should address them and in what way. Then each group gave a presentation in which they



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touched on such problems as the lack of evacuation shelters, urban planning challenges, and relocation issues.

Over the course of the two-day workshop, the trainees gained a better understanding of the natural disaster risks in Foreshore Estate, discovered the effectiveness of creating hazard maps based on town watching activities, and learned how to engage in risk communication (methods of filling in the information gap between individuals with regard to risk) through town watching and hazard mapping.

The participants were encouraged to recommend that these efforts be put into practice in their workplaces so as to promote their widespread implementation. The workshop video was translated into a local language and distributed to the trainees and disaster management officials.

● Announcements**IRP Forum “Capacity Development for Better Recovery”**

The International Recovery Forum “Capacity Development for Better Recovery” was held on 24 January 2008 in Kobe, Hyogo prefecture. It was co-organized by the IRP Secretariat, JICA Hyogo Disaster Reduction Learning Center, UN/ISDR Hyogo Office, the ADRC, the Cabinet Office of Japan, and the Hyogo Prefectural Government. The forum attracted 130 attendees from 28 countries, and featured lively discussions of how to promote capacity development for better post-disaster recovery. For more information, please visit the IRP's website (<http://www.recoveryplatform.org/recoveryforum.html>).

On behalf of the organizers, the IRP would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to all the forum participants, and to everyone who helped make it such a success.

Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction Meets in Kobe

Led by the UN/ISDR Hyogo Office, the Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction, which was designed to integrate knowledge from Japan and abroad to contribute to urban risk reduction in Asia, met in Kobe on 23-24 January 2008. Twenty-eight participants from 14 institutions, including government agencies, the UN, international and regional organizations, universities, and NGOs participated in this brainstorming meeting and discussed the promotion of information sharing and cooperation for urban disaster risk reduction. For more details, please visit our website (<http://www.adrc.or.jp/events/RTFmeeting20080130/top.html>).

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