



# ADRC Highlights

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### Asian Disaster Reduction Center

Hitomirai-kan 5F, 1-5-2  
Wakihama-kaigan-dori  
Chuo-ku, Kobe  
651-0073 Japan

Tel: 078-262-5540  
Fax: 078-262-5546  
editor@adrc.or.jp  
http://www.adrc.or.jp

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## ● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

### ADRC Cooperative Project 2007: International Urban Search and Rescue Training Course

The Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) has been conducting a training course for overseas experts to learn tactics and techniques used in urban search-and-rescue situations since 2000. With the help of the SCDF, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center has been inviting participants from its member countries to participate in this course since 2001. The ADRC

provided support to enable experts from Bangladesh, the Republic of Korea, Nepal, and the Philippines to participate in this year's course, which was held from 25 February to 7 March 2008.

The training course was conducted at a Civil Defence Academy training facility, one of the best facilities, featuring some of the best trainers in Asia. The training course included not only lectures intended to teach the concepts and principles of managing and handling search-and-rescue operations in urban areas, but also physical exercises to help participants acquire special skills and techniques, such as high angle rescue, debris tunneling, mass casualty management, and rescue equipment use. The participants were pleased with the opportunities they had to learn actual search-and-rescue techniques that will help them in their disaster prevention efforts in their own countries.

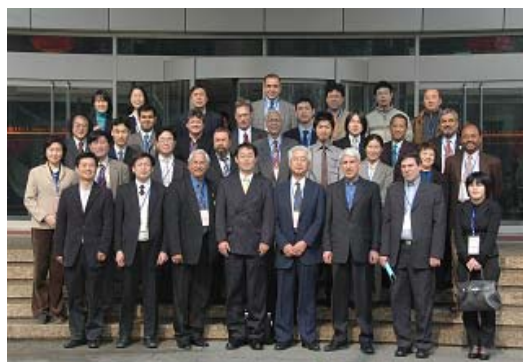
The frequent occurrence of disasters in the Asian region underscores the need to further develop the capabilities of search-and-rescue experts. The ADRC would like to continue to serve the needs of member countries in this field.



## ● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions Disaster Reduction Hyperbase (DRH) Workshop Held in Beijing

The 2nd Annual DRH Workshop, co-organized by the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED, Japan) and Beijing Normal University (BNU, China), was held on 21-22 February 2008 in Beijing at BNU. The workshop was conducted in accordance with the framework of the Disaster Reduction Hyperbase-Asian Application Project (DRH-Asia, July 2006-March 2009), supported primarily by the Japanese government as part of its efforts to implement the Hyogo Frame for Action adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005. The project is managed by NIED and its Earthquake Mitigation Research Center, in close collaboration with UN/ISDR, EC/JRC, BNU, NSET-Nepal, SEEDS-India, IIEES, Kyoto University, the ADRC, and other collaborating institutions.

The objectives of the workshop were to evaluate the achievements of the DRH-Asia Project, identify the gaps that need to be filled for the project to be completed, and discuss future issues. Over 50 participants representing governments, universities, research and technical institutions, international and regional organizations, as well as NGOs actively participated in the workshop and presented their contributions for the further development of the DRH-Asia. ADRC Senior Researcher Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki participated in the workshop and gave a presentation on the perception survey methodology used by the ADRC in assessing the disaster reduction capacity of communities and identifying effective measures for future disaster reduction. The workshop resulted in the issuance of the DRH Declaration and the adoption of a charter regarding the establishment of the DRH Consortium and the promotion and sustainability of future DRH activities. For more information, please visit: <http://www.edm.bosai.go.jp/old/m-n.html> and <http://www.irisknet.cn/DRH/>.



## RTF-URR Follow-up Meeting Held in Bangkok

Convened by the UN/ISDR Hyogo Office, the second meeting of the Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction (RTF-URR) was held on 14 February 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand in conjunction with the ISDR Asia Partnership. The meeting was held to follow up on the discussions at the Brainstorming Meeting of the RTF-URR held in Kobe (23-24 January 2008). Thirteen participants from eight organizations (ADPC, ADRC, EMI, Kyoto University, NSET-Nepal, UNCRD, UNEP, and UN/ISDR) and representatives from China participated in the meeting and discussed further details regarding its next steps, including the development of a concrete action plan for the RTF-URR. The task force elected Mr. Rajib Shaw (Kyoto University) to serve as its chair and Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki (ADRC) as vice-chair. Participating agencies expressed their intent to lead discussions on each of the three themes identified and to complete a matrix to be developed by the RTF-URR. The second meeting also identified several additional stakeholders who are to be invited to the next RTF-URR meeting. For more information, please contact the ADRC or Ms. Matsuoka, Programme Officer, UN/ISDR Hyogo Office ([matsuoka@un.org](mailto:matsuoka@un.org)).

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