



# ADRC Highlights

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## ● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions Mongolia Begins Earthquake Countermeasures

A major earthquake is expected to strike the capital of Mongolia in the near future. On 04 December 1957, the Gobi Altay fault moved 250 km, resulting in an 8.3 magnitude earthquake. Since then, Mongolia's major disasters have included heavy snowstorms and forest fires. The capital city of Ulaanbaatar is the only large city in Mongolia, and is home to approximately 1.02 million people, or 2/5 of the total population. Earthquake preparedness are therefore urgently needed in Ulaanbaatar.

There has been a continuous influx of people into Ulaanbaatar since democratization. While modern high-rises continue to appear, residents from rural areas have built yurts and wooden houses near the river and periphery of the city. There are concerns regarding the seismic resistance of multi-family housing complexes built under Soviet Union standards as well as modern high-rises built later, as well as concerns regarding the seismic resistance of important elements of the urban infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, and the risk of multiple fire outbreaks in the yurt area.

At the request of the Mongolian government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Mongolia Office, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) sent Senior Research Masaru Arakida to Mongolia on 22-26 June. In a two-day seminar, he gave earthquake policy presentations based on Japan's experience with the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, explaining how earthquakes are generated, discussing government preparedness measures for future earthquakes, and identifying earthquake preparedness measures that can be taken by individual households. ADRC would like to continue working with relevant local agencies to support the ongoing development of earthquake countermeasures in Mongolia.



[Yurts and wooden houses are densely clustered in the yurt area of Ulaanbaatar]

## ● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries Capacity Building for Disaster Management among Local Government Officials in Myanmar

Myanmar's Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) in the Ministry of Social Welfare, and the ADRC have launched a program to promote capacity building for disaster management among local government officials. This is one of four capacity development programs for the ASEAN countries that ADRC has been conducting since 2008, which have focused on disaster education promotion, the utilization of satellite images for disaster management, and the

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development of the Web-based GLIDE-associated database on natural hazards.

On 23-24 June 2010, RRD and ADRC held a kickoff meeting for the program targeting local government officials. Around 15 participants from both sides discussed issues regarding program implementation. Myanmar sustained devastating damage from the 2008 Cyclone Nargis and is exposed to such disaster risks as storms, floods, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts, and fires. There is thus an urgent need to further strengthen the capacity of local government officials in charge of disaster management, as they play a critical role in every phase of the disaster management cycle.

RRD and ADRC will work together on the implementation of the 20-month program from 2010 to 2011, starting with the creation of an expert team tasked with the development of training materials.

## **● Participation in International Conferences**

### **ADRC Participates in "Orientation Training on the Use of DRR Project Portal"**

ADRC participated in the "Orientation Training on the Use of DRR Project Portal" developed under the IAP initiative on Regional Stocktaking and Mapping of DRR interventions, held in Bangkok, Thailand on 17-18 June 2010. The training was organized by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in partnership with UNISDR and with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Approximately 30 officials from IAP member organizations and other organizations in Asia and the Pacific participated in the training.

During the training, participants learned about the DRR Project Portal, including its usage, and also discussed possible ways to increase the use of the DRR Project Portal and to address the challenges in updating information. This portal is expected to help promote coordination and collaboration among DRR practitioners, avoiding duplications of activities, and to facilitate better planning and programming in Asia and the Pacific.

ADRC intends to continue providing support for the portal and promoting it among DRR practitioners in the Asia-Pacific region.



[The 4th meeting of the Project Steering Committee was held after the training]

## **● Announcements**

### **Personnel Change**

Senior Researchers Mr. Noburu Uchiyama and Mr. Yoshiaki Ogane returned back to their original posts at the end of June. All of us at the ADRC offer our best wishes for their continued success. On 1 July, Mr. Takahiro Ono was assigned to the positions of Senior Researcher.

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