



# ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 213  
December  
2010

## TOPICS

### Natural Disaster Report

Field Survey of Tsunami-Stricken Areas in the Mentawai Islands

### Participation in International Conferences

17th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum

### Announcements

Visiting Researchers for the ASEAN GLIDE Project

### Asian Disaster Reduction Center

Higashikan 5F, 1-5-2  
Wakinohamakaigan-dori,  
Chuo-ku, Kobe  
651-0073 Japan

Tel: 078-262-5540  
Fax: 078-262-5546  
editor@adrc.asia  
<http://www.adrc.asia>

© ADRC 2010

## ● Natural Disaster Report

### Field Survey of Tsunami-Stricken Areas in the Mentawai Islands, West Sumatra, Indonesia

The earthquake that struck off Sumatra Island on the night of 25 October triggered a tsunami and left more than 500 people dead or missing on North and South Pagai in the Mentawai Islands. The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) participated in the Indonesia and Japan joint survey team organized by the "JICA-JST Indonesia Multi-disciplinary Hazard Reduction from Earthquakes and Volcanoes in Indonesia" project. During the field survey, ADRC focused on such areas as disaster preparedness (awareness, education, and training), emergency response (search and rescue, emergency supplies, shelter), and early recovery (house and household recovery). The following provides a snapshot of the major findings from this survey.



- Remote and scattered island areas like the Mentawai Islands present particularly difficult logistical challenges when it comes to the distribution of humanitarian assistance. Indeed, many NGOs have left the area without fulfilling their tasks due to a lack of transportation and other logistical struggles.
- The relocation of high risk coastal communities to safer higher ground areas has been promoted by the government. While this option is certainly desirable, it may be very difficult to implement given its sheer scale. At the very least, it will take a considerable amount of time for this policy to be fully implemented on the Mentawai Islands, let alone on the many other earthquake - and tsunami-prone islands in Indonesia. It is therefore imperative, while relocation is promoted, to secure evacuation routes and identify evacuation shelters in high risk areas as a matter of urgency. For this to be done well, risk assessment efforts in coastal villages should be a first step.
- A warning system is still needed in this region, though it cannot be known how effective it might have been in this latest disaster. Such a system can make use of ordinary means of communication, such as TVs, mobile phones, and radios. To use those tools effectively, efforts must be made to raise awareness, provide disaster education, and promote disaster preparedness.



## Continued

- NGOs currently operating in the region may terminate their activities in the coming weeks or months. Early recovery is needed not only in housing but also in livelihoods, but it is unclear how soon livelihood recovery can be achieved. Disaster victims are currently living in extremely harsh conditions. Thus, massive levels of urgent support need to be provided by the government as well as multilateral and bilateral organizations.
- In highly disaster-prone countries like Indonesia, some kind of risk-sharing scheme may need to be developed that cannot be run on a commercial basis. In this case, government intervention will be required.
- Last but not least, the capacity of disaster management agencies at various levels, from the national to the local level, as well as among community groups, should be further strengthened. Disaster management should not only cover the disaster response phase, but also short-term and long-term recovery as well as mitigation and preparedness.



## ● Participation in International Conferences

### 17th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum

ADRC participated in the 17th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) that was held from 23 to 26 November in Melbourne, Australia. The theme of the Forum was “The role of space technology and industry in addressing climate change.” The APRSAF was established in 1993 to enhance space activities in the Asia-Pacific region. Attended by space agencies, governments, and international organizations such as the United Nations as well as companies, universities and research institutes, this Forum is the largest space-related conference in the Asia-Pacific region

The participants of APRSAF share information about their activities and the future plans for their countries and regions. APRSAF also supports international projects designed to find solutions to common issues such as disaster management and environmental protection. The Sentinel Asia initiative is one such activity, and involves the use of space-based information in the form of satellite images for disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region. ADRC has been tasked with the responsibility of receiving emergency observation requests from ADRC member countries and Joint Project Team (JPT) members and, if appropriate, forwarding them on to four regional space agencies, namely, ISRO, GISTDA, KARI and JAXA.

ADRC gave a presentation on this year’s requests for the use of space technologies in disaster management through Sentinel Asia. ADRC also emphasized the importance of human resource development to promote the more effective utilization of space technologies in disaster management, giving examples of successful as well as unsuccessful uses of the images provided. ADRC representatives also presented information about a human resource development program for promoting the use of satellite images in disaster management, which is currently being implemented using the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund.



## ● Announcements

### Visiting Researchers for the ASEAN GLIDE Project

Three visiting researchers have been undergoing training in Japan as part of the ASEANGLIDE project. This project aims to organize a web-based historical disaster database using the GLIDE system to facilitate disaster risk management.

[Kheang Chansophearom, Cambodia]

My name is Kheang Chansophearom and I am from Cambodia. I am a government official working for Cambodia's National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM). I want to study disaster management in Japan, to do practical on-site exercises, and to learn how to input data using the GLIDE number system. I also want to experience traditional Japanese culture, and to learn about disaster a countermeasure through various activities, including lectures, seminars, workshops, and visits to disaster-affected areas and other organizations in Japan. I look forward taking advantage of the ADRC Visiting Researcher Program and the ASEAN GLIDE Project 2010 to enhance my general knowledge and skills and to develop a GLIDE-associated database in my country.

[Nyi Nyi Naing, Myanmar]

I am Nyi Nyi Naing, and I work as the assistant director in the Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) in the Union of Myanmar. RRD is the primary disaster management agency in Myanmar. I have been working here since 2002. The objectives of the RRD are to take precautionary measures for reducing losses of life and property, and to provide relief for victims. Myanmar is exposed to multiple natural hazard including fires, storms, floods, tsunamis, and earthquakes. I want to study more effective disaster management measures in Japan.

[Arie Astuti Wulandari, Indonesia]

I am Arie Astuti Wulandari and I am from Indonesia. At present, I am working as a disaster risk analysis officer for the National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB). Indonesia is an archipelago situated at the juncture of four tectonic plates that produce constant seismic and volcanic activity. This makes it highly prone to disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. Because of its topographical and hydro-meteorological conditions, Indonesia is also subject to other disasters such as landslides, floods, forest fires, and droughts. I have been visiting both public and private organizations involved in disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities, as well as learning the GLIDE system so that it can be used in the development of a disaster database in Indonesia. The ADRC's Visiting Researcher Program supports researchers from member countries by providing them opportunities to learn more about enhancing and strengthening DRR, disaster management practices, and incorporating DRR concepts into policies in their home countries. I hope my experiences in Japan will allow me to make a valuable contribution to disaster management efforts in Indonesia, and I appreciate your continuous support for the activities of the BNPB.

This training course was finished safely on 16th December.

### **For Inquiries & Subscription Information**

For more information or details regarding email subscriptions to this newsletter, please email [editor@adrc.asia](mailto:editor@adrc.asia).