



ADRC Highlights

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● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund Project (Capacity Building in the of Utilization of Satellite Images for Disaster Management)

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) held the first regional workshop of the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund Project on "Capacity Building in the Utilization of Satellite Images for Disaster Management" from 1 to 2 February 2011. This workshop was organized in cooperation with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and was held at the AIT Conference Center in Bangkok, Thailand.



This is one of four capacity development programs that ADRC has been implementing in the ASEAN countries since 2008. The other three cover the areas of disaster education promotion, the development of a Web-based GLIDE-associated disaster database, and the capacity building of local government officials.

The purpose of the workshop was to allow relevant personnel to share information from the Report from the Seminar and Training for the Utilization of Satellite Images for Disaster Management, as well as other information regarding the use of satellite image for disaster management. The 27 participants, who represented the ASEAN countries, the ASEAN secretariat, the Japanese Embassy in Thailand, and UN agencies, discussed efforts to promote the use of satellite images for disaster management activities.

The key points discussed were as follows:

- 1) Close ties between space organizations and disaster management organizations
- 2) Effective use of satellite information and the development of expertise and technologies
- 3) Use of ICTs other than satellite technologies to strengthen disaster management capacity
- 4) Mutual learning among countries through regional mechanisms

For more details about this project and the results of this workshop, please visit the ADRC web site (http://www.adrc.asia/top_j.php).

International Recovery Forum 2011

The International Recovery Forum 2011 highlighted the importance of pre-disaster recovery planning to help avoid the diversion of scarce resources originally intended for development programs, to recovery after a natural disaster. The Forum was attended by more than 150 participants from 26 national governments and 10 international organizations. It brought together key players in pre-disaster recovery planning, including the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Tokyo metropolitan government, ASEAN, ADB, and a

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number of other organizations to discuss the modalities of planning, options, and experiences.

At the opening session, the Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, the Chair of IRP Steering Committee, and the Associate Administrator of FEMA-ORR all communicated the key message that pre-disaster recovery planning can increase the efficiency of recovery activities, including debris removal, utility restoration, financial management, and coordination amongst stakeholders. Guidance Notes on Recovery were also issued to promote the integration of global best practices in recovery planning processes. Additionally, reports on recovery initiatives from Haiti, China, Myanmar, and the Philippines were presented in the context of preparing for future disasters. The afternoon session consisted of reports on recovery planning, as well as group and panel discussions. Cases on recovery planning were presented by Mr. Mitsutoshi Kimura, from the Hyogo prefectural government, and Ms. Adelina Kamal, from the ASEAN Secretariat. Three different groups presented recommendations regarding recovery planning processes, coordination mechanisms, and financing options. The panelists discussed the need for pre-disaster recovery planning, and outlined key considerations for ensuring recovery support functions. Participants recognized that disaster recovery planning is beneficial for governments in terms of expediting recovery, reducing risks of future disasters by building back better, enabling demand-driven and inclusive recovery, minimizing development deficits, and reducing recovery costs.

Forum 2011 came up with Guidelines for Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning which will be presented at the World Reconstruction Conference hosted by the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva, Switzerland on 8-13 May 2011.



ADRC Peer Review Project

In December 2010, ADRC conducted its ADRC Peer Review with the aim of developing the DRR capacity of ADRC member countries by encouraging information sharing and helping them to strengthen relationships with one another. Mongolia and Bangladesh were selected as the targets of this year's review. After country reports were submitted by the two target countries, reviewer teams visited them to conduct interview surveys.

[Mongolia]

On 5-10 December 2010, an ADRC review team comprised of Prof. Masato Motosaka (Earthquake Disaster Research Laboratory, Disaster Control Research Center, Graduate School of Engineering, Tohoku University), Mr. Tshering Kezang (Governor, Dzongkhag Administration, Lhuentse, Bhutan), Mr. Vivesh Rana (Deputy Commandant, Ministry of Home Affairs, India) and two ADRC staff members visited Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. During the four-day survey, the team visited various ministries and institutions related to DRR activities, including NEMA, the National Emergency Management Agency (ADRC's counterpart in Mongolia), to examine how Mongolia has been approaching efforts related to earthquake disaster education and capacity development by government and non-governmental organizations. The team then conducted on-site reviews of building conditions, and prepared a draft report of its results containing all findings and recommendations. On the last day of the survey, a workshop was held to obtain opinions and comments needed for finalizing the report. This was attended by about 30 NEMA officials. The representatives from Bhutan and India also gave presentations at the workshop on their earthquake disaster reduction efforts. This provided a very good



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opportunity for participants to share opinions with one another.

[Bangladesh]

Another review team comprised of Dr. Taiichi Hayashi of the Research Center for Fluvial and Coastal Disasters of the Disaster Prevention Research Institute of Kyoto University, Mr. San Kung from Myanmar's Relief and Resettlement Department, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ms. Crispina B. Abat of the Philippines' Office of Civil Defense, and Ms. Yumi Shiomi of ADRC visited Bangladesh on 12-16 December 2010 to conduct a survey of ongoing cyclone preparedness efforts in that country. The survey began with visits to relevant organizations in Dhaka such as the Disaster Management and Relief Division of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, the Disaster Management Bureau, Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Bangladesh Water Development Board, Institute of Water Modeling, and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. The team then traveled to cyclone-prone Noakhali District in the coastal region to learn about the local situation by conducting interviews with local DRM officials, volunteers and residents, and visiting cyclone shelters and embankments. Team members with cyclone expertise and experiences working on severe storm countermeasures in their own countries actively shared their opinions during the survey.

Survey reports will be sent to the target countries and all ADRC member countries to enhance the mutual sharing of information. ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to the many people and organizations that made important contributions to this project this year.



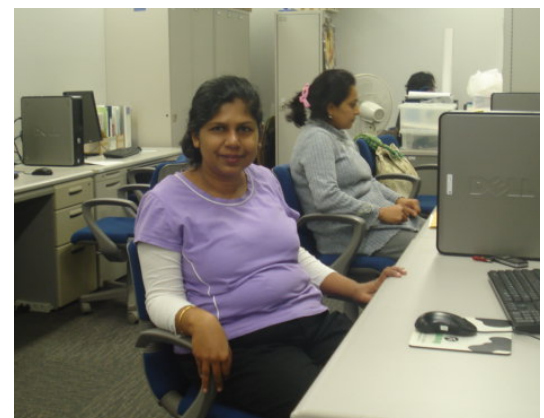
● **ADRC Visiting Researcher Report**

Ms. A.M.J.D.K Mudalige (Sri Lanka)

I am Janaki Mudalige, and I am the District Disaster Management Coordinator at the Disaster Management Centre in Kegalle District, located in the central part of Sri Lanka. I started my career as a scientist in 1994 and I joined to Disaster Management Centre in 2006. I am currently serving as a Visiting Researcher at ADRC in Kobe.

Sri Lanka has experienced several natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and landslides, it has a lower incidence of natural disasters than other countries. There were remarkable levels of flooding and landslides in 2003, and in the following year, 2004, Sri Lanka suffered its most devastating event: the Indian Ocean tsunami. Thereafter, the government took steps to strengthen its disaster management system so as to minimize the damage to lives and properties that would be caused by future natural disasters. As a result, the parliament passed the Disaster Management Act on 13 May 2005. The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) was established immediately thereafter, and the Ministry of Disaster Management was formed in January, 2006. Since then, the DMC has served as a pioneer in the field of disaster management, conducting rapid assessments, implementing efforts to raise awareness, and promoting preparedness and mitigation activities all over the country.

The ADRC's Visiting Researcher (VR) Program affords me a great opportunity to conduct research on disaster reduction. The sharing of information and experiences with fellow ADRC member will give enable me to help develop a strategic approach to the promotion of safer communities. For these reasons and more, I am impressed with the program and I am delighted and honored to have been chosen to serve as a visiting researcher. The experiences I have had during my stay have been tremendously helpful. Japan has achieved an amazing level



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of development, and is implementing an impressive portfolio of mitigation and preparedness measures. Looking around, one can readily see the care and commitment of Japan's local communities and government agencies with regard to the protection of the environment, forests, water supply, air quality, and surroundings. Japan's role in the field of disaster management is particularly impressive because of the country's vast experiences in facing severe disasters, including the atomic bomb attack during World War II. Japan's disaster risk reduction plans, programs, development projects, and efforts to build a resilient community are exemplary of good government leadership.

During my stay, I will also be able to immerse myself in traditional Japanese culture by participating in various festivals and tasting many Japanese foods. It will be my great pleasure to develop friendships with many students and other local residents. I look forward to taking all of the skills and disaster management knowledge that I gain through this VR Program and putting them to good use back at my workplace in Sri Lanka by sharing them with my colleagues.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the government of Japan and the ADRC, both its management and staff, for all the support that has been extended to me and to the Sri Lankan government and for allowing me to have such a fruitful experience in Japan.

Ms. Maiya KADEL (Nepal)

I am Maiya Kadel, and I am from Nepal. First, I must tell you something about Nepal, an exotic land rich in nature, culture, and adventure. Geographically, Nepal is a land-locked and mountainous country. It is located in the southern part of the Asian continent and lies between China and India. Due to its geographic and economic conditions, Nepal is symbolically called a "yam between two stones." It is a federal republic that covers 147,181 square kilometers, and is divided into five development regions and 75 districts; its capital is Katmandu. Nepal is a country renowned as the birth place of Gautam Buddha and as home to such majestic mountains as Mt. Everest, "the top of the world."

I was born and raised in Malekhu in Dhading District, the central hilly part of Nepal. I completed my schooling in that district and later moved to Kathmandu to further studies. I received a master's degree in economics from Tribhuvan University. I am married with two children, and we live in Kathmandu.

I started my professional career in 1997 and have worked since that time in various positions under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA). Since August 2009, I have been working in the Disaster Management Section as a desk officer. MOHA is responsible for disaster management in Nepal. The ministry is accountable for preparing national policies, strategies and other guidelines, and ensuring their implementation in order to strengthen disaster preparedness, response, and recovery activities. These are some of the responsibilities that were assigned to me during my work with MOHA.

Presently, I am pleased to be spending four months as a VR with ADRC in Japan. I am fully confident that the VR program will build on my existing base of knowledge and help me look critically at disaster risk reduction at the national, regional, and international levels. This program provides a great opportunity for member countries to share information with one another and enhance their conceptual and strategic skills, while also helping to build the capacities of those countries.

I am conducting research on community participation in disaster preparedness planning. The main objective of my research is to examine the existing issues of disaster preparedness planning and recommend appropriate policy guidelines for creating institutional frameworks for community participation in disaster preparedness planning in Nepal.

I am confident that the VR Program will increase my overall understanding of disaster risk reduction issues and especially of community participation in disaster preparedness planning. The experiences, interdisciplinary knowledge, and international skills I acquire during the study period will substantially help me promote community involvement in disaster preparedness, which is key to the success of disaster risk reduction initiatives.



Ms. Amornthip PAKSUCHON (Thailand)

My name is Amornthip Paksuchon, and I am from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation in Thailand. The main mission of this department is to integrate and collaborate with relevant agencies on disaster preparedness. During emergencies and their immediate aftermath, the department does this by assisting disaster victims and rehabilitating the areas affected by the disaster, and by mobilizing diverse forms of assistance relevant to disaster recovery and rehabilitation across diverse areas. In everyday, non-emergency situations, the department develops preparedness activities by conducting training courses, holding simulation exercises, and coordinating with various agencies, both public and private, through the Ministry of Interior.

The main responsibility of the Disaster Prevention Promotion Bureau is to promote and support disaster prevention among the general public by raising public awareness of disaster risks through disaster prevention activities. Its prevention efforts include encouraging public awareness of disaster risk reduction in different areas, such as at the community level and in the schools. They also include coordinating the disaster prevention activities of other concerned agencies and conducting communication activities to build capacity and strengthen communities in high-risk areas.

I am involved in human resource development under the Disaster Prevention Promotion Bureau. I have been working as the liaison to the director on the preparation and implementation of training activities and seminars/workshops on disaster risk management, and have helped coordinate various disaster management activities with other agencies, including joint seminars, conferences, and fire fighting drills.

As a VR in 2010, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all of those who contributed to my selection as a participant in this valuable program. The ADRC's Visiting Researcher Program is a great opportunity for me to learn more and conduct research around the "Comparative Study on the Dissemination of Disaster Prevention Culture for Communities." The ability to share information and experiences with other ADRC members and JICA participants will help me develop a strategic approach to the promotion of safer communities in my own country.

My participation in the JICA training course "Dissemination and Establishment of Disaster Prevention Culture for Asian Countries" has been key for learning how this knowledge can be used to develop interesting activities. Kaeru Caravan is a great new method that I learned from the JICA training course, and is a model that will facilitate the implementation of various activities and help strengthen the disaster prevention culture in my home country. This course also allowed participants to reinforce their relationships with one another, thereby strengthening information networks on disaster management in the Asian region.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Japan and ADRC, both its management and staff, for all the support they have given me, for being such a cooperative partner to the Kingdom of Thailand, and for allowing me to have such a fruitful experience in Japan.

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