



ADRC Highlights

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● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Report from the APEC Workshop on Private Sector Emergency Preparedness

The governments of Japan and the United States co-hosted the APEC Workshop on Private Sector Emergency Preparedness on 1-3 August 2011 in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan. With more than 100 participants, including government officials and experts from 18 countries and regions, the workshop was the first inter-governmental, international conference conducted in an area affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

The participants confirmed that the Asia-Pacific region is particularly prone to natural disasters and that its supply chains are closely intertwined. Given this, the members agreed that a single disaster could affect the economic activities of the entire region and that APEC therefore needs to strengthen the private sector's capacity for disaster preparedness and recovery, and to strengthen the partnerships among its members.

The objective of the workshop was to promote Business Continuity Planning (BCP) among APEC member economies. The participants examined case studies from the private sector, shared expertise on how to develop BCP in each economy, and discussed the role of governments in promoting BCP in the Asia-Pacific region.

The workshop covered the following topics: The concept and importance of Business Continuity Planning (BCP), Status of BCP adoption in the APEC region, BCP Case Studies (including the experience of Great East Japan Earthquake), BCP Reference Guide, Public-Private Partnerships, and Inter-APEC cooperation to promote BCP in the APEC region. The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted research and gave a presentation on the status of BCP adoption in the APEC region for further consideration. On the last day, the participants toured the tsunami-affected area and visited local firms that minimized the damage to their businesses caused by the March 11th disaster by quickly implementing their BCP.



Report from the Project "Multi-disciplinary Hazard Reduction from Earthquakes and Volcanoes in Indonesia"

ADRC has been participating in the project "Multi-disciplinary Hazard Reduction from Earthquakes and Volcanoes in Indonesia" since 2009. The ultimate goal of this project is to reduce the damage caused by earthquakes and volcanoes by enhancing hazard forecasting capabilities, reducing social vulnerability, and promoting education and outreach activities for the dissemination of research findings. Many universities and research institutions have been participating in

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this project to achieve these goals. ADRC belongs a group focused on "Promoting disaster education and upgrading disaster awareness."

On 14 July, ADRC had a meeting with the Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI) and the Tsunami and Disaster Mitigation Research Center (TDMRC) in Banda-Aceh, Indonesia. During this meeting, ADRC, LIPI, and TDMRC discussed the contents of a workshop and evacuation drill that were to be held on 15-16 July. A teachers' training workshop was held at a junior high school in Banda-Aceh on 15 July, and it was attended by approximately 30 teachers from primary schools, junior high schools, high schools, and regional schools. They discussed the contents of the guidelines that are to be published as a result of this project. Many participants suggested that information regarding the specific ways that teachers can support students during and after natural disasters should be included in the guidelines.

An evacuation drill was also conducted at a junior high school on 16 July. More than 600 students participated in this training. They were able to check the predetermined evacuation routes and sites, and to identify issues that need to be addressed. We hope their experience during this training will prove useful for future activities.

This project will conclude this year, but ADRC would like to support efforts to implement disaster education activities in other disaster-prone areas around Indonesia as well.



[Evacuation Drill]

● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

Ms. Anna-Lisa Dumaguing-Orallo (Philippines)

I am Anna-Lisa Dumaguing-Orallo from Marikina City, Philippines, and I'm here representing the Office of Civil Defense (OCD). I have been with the OCD for the past 12 years, and I am currently serving as the Deputy Chief of the Report Development Section in the Operations Division. As a Deputy Chief, I am tasked with assisting the Section Chief in the preparation of situational and final reports on major disasters managed by the office. I also prepare daily situational reports on natural and human-induced incidents, and prepare and send alert notices/advisories to the OCD Regional Offices and the Local Government Units on any impending situation that may affect those areas, all for the purpose of effectively managing the impacts of a disaster.

The OCD serves as the operating arm and secretariat of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), formerly known as the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC). Its primary task is to coordinate the activities and functions of various government agencies, private institutions, and civic organizations for the protection and preservation of life and property during emergencies. The office executes and monitors the implementation of NDRRMC policies and programs, and provides secretariat services to the NDRRMC. The OCD's mission is to administer a comprehensive national civil defense and civil assistance program by providing leadership to communities in the continuous development of measures to reduce disaster risks, and by managing the consequences of disasters.

Japan's disaster risk reduction plans and programs for building resilient communities provide helpful examples of how government can be involved in recovery and development efforts. They provide models for preparedness and discipline that developing countries can adopt and put into action in their own



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situations and localities. The ADRC Visiting Researcher (VR) Program is a great opportunity for conducting research on disaster management. It is my honor and privilege to be part of the VR program, and I look forward being able to learn more about the disaster risk reduction and management approaches adopted by Japan and other ADRC member countries.

Mr. Sisira Wnninayake (Sri Lanka)

I am Sisira Wnninayake, and I work as the Assistant Director of Kurunegala District in the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) of Sri Lanka. The DMC is the mandated body for disaster management in Sri Lanka, and operates under the Ministry of Disaster Management. I joined to the DMC in 2006 after eight years working as a Land Use Planning Officer in the Land Use Policy Planning Division of the Ministry of Lands. I earned my undergraduate degree in Geography in 1996 my master's degree in Natural Resource Management in 2006, both from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. I also pursued a master's degree in Disaster Management at that university in 2010.

With the increase in disasters in Sri Lanka, the government took steps to strengthen its disaster management system so as to minimize the damage to lives and property that would be caused by future natural and manmade disasters. As a result, the parliament passed the Disaster Management Act on 13 May 2005. The National Disaster Management Council (NDMC) and the DMC were established under the provisions of this Act. The DMC functions with a vision for achieving "Safer communities and sustainable development in Sri Lanka." Its mission is "To create a culture of safety among communities and the nation at large through the systematic management of natural, technological and manmade disaster risks." As the District Assistant Director, I am responsible for implementing activities to enable the DMC to fulfill its mission in my district.

The Visiting Researcher Program at ADRC affords me and my country a great opportunity to learn about disaster countermeasures. Japan's role in the field of disaster management is particularly impressive given its vast experience in facing serious disasters. The development Japan has achieved, even amidst such devastating disasters, is nothing short of amazing. During my stay, I also expect to immerse myself in Japanese culture by participating in various festivals and enjoying many Japanese foods, as well as by forging friendships with many students and other local residents. I would like to express my deep gratitude to the government of Japan and the ADRC, and also to the Disaster Management Center and the Sri Lankan government, for giving me the opportunity to have such a fruitful experience in Japan.

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