



ADRC Highlights

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● Human Resource Development

JICA Training Course: Comprehensive Disaster Management for Central Asia and the Caucasus 2011

From 27 June to 5 August, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted a training course for disaster management officials from Central Asia and the Caucasus with cooperation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The course, which was conducted in Russian, has been held eight times since this program was launched. It was attended by a total of 13 central and local government officials representing 4 countries: Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan in Central Asia, and Armenia in the Caucasus.

The training is designed to convey basic knowledge and experiences related to natural disaster management, and to further promote the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in the participants' countries. During this training, participants were asked to identify a major problem in their own countries and to formulate an action plan for addressing it. They attended lectures and visited central and municipal government agencies, research institutes, a meteorological organization, a broadcasting company, a medical institution, a school, a disaster management base, private companies, UN offices, and an NPO in order to comprehensively enhance their understanding of Japan's disaster management system. They also heard about lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, which struck on 11 March. In addition, they participated in community activities, such as "Town Watching" for hazard map making, and went on an excursion to the Shikoku Mountain Range where landslide and erosion control countermeasures are being implemented.

Central Asia and the Caucasus frequently experience disasters such as floods, droughts, landslides, and earthquakes, some of which extend across several countries. Also, heavy snowfall in the winter can lead to flooding when mountain glaciers thaw in the warmer seasons. Thus, these regions have common concerns in terms of disaster risk management. It is hoped that the participants will make good use of the knowledge, technologies, and methods they learned from the training course to implement various projects and help strengthen the disaster management systems in their home countries. This course also allowed participants to reinforce their relationships with one another, and is expected to strengthen disaster management information networks in the region. ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all the organizations that contributed to the success of this course.



[Town Watching Program]

● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

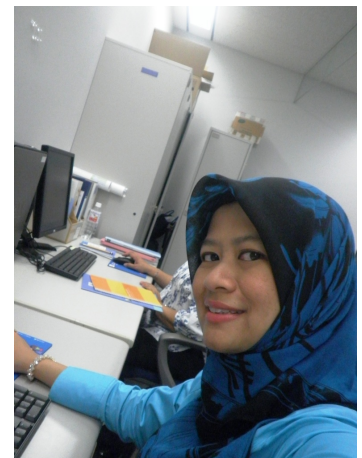
Ms. Surina Binti OTHMAN (Malaysia)

My name is Surina Binti Othman, and I am from the Malaysian Meteorological Department (METMalaysia) under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) in Malaysia. The METMalaysia is mainly responsible for issuing timely meteorological information and forecasts for civil and military aviation, marine activities, and the general public. The METMalaysia also issues early warnings and immediate information on earthquake events that affect the country, occurrences of adverse weather phenomena, and dangerous sea conditions in the Malaysian region, to the public, media outlets, and agencies involved in disaster mitigation. Our early warning system has helped the disaster management and mitigation agencies, particularly the National Security Council (NSC), National Civil Defense Department, Royal Malaysian Police, Department of Drainage and Irrigation, and Department of Environment to reduce the impacts of earthquakes, floods, landslides, droughts, and other natural hazards.

As an Assistant Director currently working in the Competency Development Section, I am responsible for coordinating and enhancing human resource development, which involves planning and scheduling training for all METMalaysia officials. I am also responsible for coordinating the Competency Level Assessment (CLA) for METMalaysia staff to ensure that the staff members are fulfilling their job promotion requirements. Previously, I worked in the Geophysics and Tsunami Division of the METMalaysia, where I was responsible for monitoring earthquake occurrences and issuing tsunami warnings when necessary. I also have experience in issuing weather forecasts and warnings regarding oil exploration and extraction in the South China Sea. Thus, my professional background has already exposed me to issues of weather and geophysical hazards, and to the field of disaster risk reduction and management.

The opportunity to participate in this program is really valuable to me, as it offers me a way to upgrade my skills and knowledge related to disaster risk management for severe disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and floods, and even related to climate change itself. This will surely be beneficial to me and my country, as I may have opportunities to utilize the knowledge I gain in conducting research for the METMalaysia on disaster risk management related to natural disasters and hazards in Malaysia. It affords me a great opportunity, as a meteorological official who works in the field of disaster management, to become more familiar with good practices and lessons learned from Japan's recent disaster, the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, which was unlike any disaster Malaysia has ever experienced.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Japan and ADRC itself as the organizer of this program, and to both its management and staff, for all the support they have given to me, for being such a cooperative partner to the government of Malaysia, and for allowing me to have such a wonderful experience during my stay in Japan.



Mr. Emin NAZAROV (Azerbaijan)

My name is Emin NAZAROV, and I am serving as a senior advisor for the Crisis Management Center (CMC) in the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES), Republic of Azerbaijan. The CMC is a functional body of the MES which is in charge of ensuring effective management of its forces and facilities. The CMC also manages the "112 hotline" service. In fulfilling its responsibilities, the CMC acts in close cooperation with other bodies and departments of the MES. As a senior advisor of the CMC, I have been actively involved in its activities; my daily duties include the compilation, editing, and analysis of both natural and man-made disasters taking place both in Azerbaijan and worldwide.

Azerbaijan's geographical location, as well as its prevailing geographical features make it one of the most disaster-prone countries in the region. On the other hand, a booming construction and industrial

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sector, particularly the well-developed oil and gas sector, increase the risk of technical disasters. The territory of Azerbaijan, being part of the Alpine folded belt, is a highly seismic region and is also subject to other recurring natural disasters such as floods and landslides. Given its high level of vulnerability, Azerbaijan adheres to a comprehensive approach to disaster management, constantly advancing emergency management systems, prioritizing disaster risk reduction activities, and promoting international cooperation in this field.

The MES was established in 2005 by presidential decree. In spite of its relative newness, the MES has succeeded in developing sufficient capabilities covering every single area of disaster management and serves as a good example of emergency management for other countries in the region.

The ADRC Visiting Researcher program is unique in that it affords me an excellent opportunity to become closely acquainted with the organization's activities and with the best practices of Japanese disaster management. I believe this program will enrich and deepen my knowledge of disaster management. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all the ADRC staff for their cooperation and assistance, and to wish them great success in all their future endeavors.

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