



ADRC Highlights

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● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

Promotion of Disaster Education in Schools in Cambodia

On 27 and 28 March 2012, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and the Youth and Sports division of the Ministry of Education of the Kingdom of Cambodia held a Training of Pilot Teachers (TOT) activity as part of a project for the "Promotion of Disaster Education in Schools" in Phnom Penh. This project is one of the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund Projects, which aim to promote disaster education in ASEAN countries through the training of school teachers in elementary and junior high schools.

Ten teachers from Banteay Primary School and Areiy Ksath Lower Secondary School in Phnom Penh attended the two-day training. First, participants attended a lecture on natural disasters and disaster management in Cambodia by Mr. Soth Kimkolmony, Deputy Director of the Department of Preparedness and Training, National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM). Then, Dr. Goto, Senior Researcher of the National Institute for Educational Policy Research of Japan, gave a lecture on "Disaster Education in Japan" during which he introduced various educational materials. After the lectures, participants discussed ways they might integrate disaster topics into the school curriculum.

Following the TOT, on 4 May, the participants conducted pilot classes at both the primary and lower secondary schools. In Grade 4 of Banteay Primary School, the pilot teacher talked about land use in Cambodia during a social science class. Students learned about the advantages of Tonle Sap Lake in terms of rice cultivation, and its disadvantages in terms of related flood risks.

After the pilot class, on 5 May, 40 teachers were invited to a session where they could share the lessons learned during the pilot classes. Many of the teachers indicated a desire to expand their knowledge of natural disasters and to have more training opportunities in the future.



● Participation in International Conferences

The International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS) Workshop

TIEMS, established in 1993 and headquartered in Belgium, is a global forum for education, certification, and policy in emergency and disaster management and is dedicated to developing and bringing the benefits of modern emergency management tools, techniques, and best practice to society for a safer world. It

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does this through the exchange of information on the use of innovative methods, technologies, and operations to improve society's ability to avoid, mitigate, respond to, and recover from natural and technological disasters. On 22 May, a symposium entitled "Resilient Asia," commemorating the newly founded Japan chapter of TIEMS was held in Shinjuku, Tokyo.

ADRC's Executive Director gave a speech on "Trends in Asian Natural Disaster Risk," in which he noted that (1) Asia has the highest number of fatalities caused by natural disasters in the world, (2) the economic impacts of natural disasters are expanding worldwide due to globalization, and (3) the goal of ADRC is to strengthen its member countries' disaster management abilities. He also participated in a panel discussion and stressed the importance of multi-layered international cooperation that includes such players as central and local governments, private companies, and research institutions in promoting the resilience of Asian countries.

The next day, an ADRC senior researcher presented his research results in a presentation entitled "Business Continuity Planning Status of the Private Sector in the Asia-Pacific Region" to spread awareness of BCP for the promotion of Asia's resiliency.

Asia Public Policy Forum "Disaster Management in Asia"

The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore and the Rajawali Foundation Institute for Asia at the Harvard Kennedy School's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation co-organized the Asia Public Policy Forum at the Lee Kuan Yew School on 14-15 May 2012. About 80 participants from research institutes, the private sector, and the government sector actively exchanged views and opinions on the issue of public policy for disaster management in the Asian region.

ADRC served as the moderator of a session on business continuity management (BCM) and shared good practices on private-public partnership policy frameworks among participants.
<http://www.ash.harvard.edu/ash/APPF>

● Announcements**Mr. Chandana Dinesh (Sri Lanka)**

I am Chandana Dinesh from Sri Lanka and I am a PhD candidate in the Geo-Informatics Laboratory of the Department of Urban and Environmental Engineering at Kyoto University. My research interest is in automated damaged building identification from very high resolution (VHR) satellites or airborne imagery in natural hazard areas. Damaged building detection and estimation is a key element in post-disaster crisis assessment and response efforts. VHR airborne and space borne imagery offers excellent opportunities for identifying ground features such as roads, buildings, and other infrastructural elements. The study I am currently working on is focused on automated rapid methods for the detection and quantification of damaged buildings which can be helpful in the processes of recognizing damage rescuing victims, and managing recovery tasks in the event of a natural disaster. Currently I am conducting collaborative research with the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) in Kobe and I see this as a great opportunity to share knowledge and information on remote sensing technologies for disaster reduction.

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