



ADRC Highlights

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● Human Resource Development

JICA Training Course: Comprehensive Disaster Management for Central Asia and the Caucasus 2013

From 24 June to 3 August 2013, 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) Kansai International Center. The course was conducted in Russian and attended by a total of 13 central and local government officials representing five countries:

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan in Central Asia, and Armenia and Azerbaijan in the

Caucasus. The training was 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 the 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 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 participated in "Town Watching" activities 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.



Lecture at Cabinet Office

● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Disaster Recovery Planning Workshops in the Horn of Africa

In collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), IRP/ADRC facilitated back-to-back workshops on disaster recovery planning for Ethiopian officials (29-31 July 2013) at the Dreamland Hotel in Bishoftu and for Somali officials (1-3 August 2013) at the Panorama Hotel in Addis Ababa. Both

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workshops are part of a series of three workshops designed for the Horn of Africa under the EC-funded project “Strengthening Region-based Capacities in Disaster Recovery Planning,” which is being implemented by UNISDR through the IRP. The third workshop is planned to be held for South Sudan officials in Juba on 25-27 September 2013. These workshops are aimed at creating a pool of recovery experts in the region as well as developing standby capacity within IGAD. This will ensure that support can be expected by any country in the region desiring technical assistance for disaster recovery planning.

About 25 officials from Ethiopia and 20 officials from Somalia participated in the first and second workshops, respectively. The participants were high-level officials from different ministries of the government with knowledge of and background in disaster risk management and long-term recovery. In addition, representatives of international organizations, specifically the UNDP, ILO, WHO, JICA, and the African Center for Disaster Risk Management (ACDRM) also participated to ensure that the workshops incorporated local knowledge, regional experiences, and international expertise. Since the Ethiopian government hosted the first two back-to-back events, H.E. Ato Mitiku Kassa, State Minister for Disaster Risk Management, attended the opening of both workshops. Additionally, H.E. Said Yousuf Noor, Somali Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union, attended the first day of the workshop held for the Somali government officials.

During the workshops, various aspects of recovery planning were discussed. In particular, options and strategies to “build back better” after long droughts and heavy flooding were explored in order to address the challenges that are expected in the recovery process. Although IRP/ADRC served mainly as facilitators, partners from WHO, ILO, and UNDP attended the workshop to share their expertise and experiences from their activities in the region. The following observations emerged from the discussions. First, there has been a paradigm shift in dealing with disasters in the region from “crisis management” to “risk management.” Second, the disaster risk management activities that have been initiated by these governments are aligned with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). Finally, there have been ongoing initiatives by these governments on integrating disaster recovery planning into disaster risk management and sustainable development efforts, such as the government of Ethiopia’s DRM Program and Investment Framework (DRM-SPIF). The recovery lessons compiled by IRP/ADRC from various experiences around the globe provide additional input that builds on existing government initiatives. The key outputs of the workshops were consolidated strategic recommendations for the development of plans for recovering from droughts and floods.

The following next steps were identified for going forward. First, all participants will be included in a Roster of Experts maintained by IRP. For the Horn of Africa, the roster will be managed by IGAD, as the regional body with standby capacity for disaster recovery planning. Trained experts will continually receive information and updates on recovery from IRP and the IGAD Secretariat. Second, local cases and experiences in the region will be documented and shared among member states as well as globally through IRP. Finally, trained experts are expected to share knowledge gained from the workshops with other officials from different government departments and ministries.

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Participants from Ethiopia



Participants from Somalia

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