

BACKGROUND

The “NGO Training for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia,” a JICA Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project, was implemented by the ADRC to promote community empowerment for disaster risk reduction in Asian countries. The training project aimed to develop the capacity of members of the Asian NGO network known as the "Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN)" by sharing the knowledge and experiences of experts in various disciplines as well as of ADRRN members. This transfer of knowledge led to the meaningful implementation of the tools in the participating countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Field practitioners from key organisations were selected. These organisations are active members of the ADRRN and are the first responders to major disasters across Asia. The ADRRN, which was formed in 2002 with the support of UNOCHA and the ADRC in order to promote cooperation among NGOs, has been noticeably involved with various DRR efforts in the region.

Asia is in a high-risk hot-spot area. The statistics have revealed that there has been an increase in the frequency of disasters in the region. The statistics [UNISDR] reveal that in the period from 1991- 2005, 13.12 million people have been killed in various types of disasters. The rise in the frequency of such disasters is attributed to climate change and its impacts on this region.

Given the increasing frequency of disasters, it is necessary that local communities, who are the first responders, are sensitized and trained in disaster risk awareness and mitigation. To make communities more resilient, field practitioners from civil society organisations must have effective tools and mechanisms which can be implemented and adapted to facilitate the process of mitigating risks.

Objectives

The objectives of the project were to promote the development of skills amongst ADRRN partner members in order to achieve excellence in DRR activities in Asia. The overall project, which was to last three years, had clear four objectives to be achieved:

1. NGO members of ADRRN will enhance their DRR knowledge and capacity
2. First-year trainees will conduct DRR trainings for other ADRRN members
3. NGO members of ADRRN are able to conduct disaster risk reduction activities in their own countries by use of expertise and knowledge gained in this project
4. DRR projects will contribute to the integration of DRR into development activities

Activities from 2007-2009

Based on the objectives, this project was divided into three phases. The activities were carried out as follows:

Six NGO officers from the ADRRN gained DRR information and tools during the training in Japan and drafted action plans which included the essence of the training to be conducted in their ongoing projects. The 15-day training program helped the participants understand, learn and contextualize the needs and utilities of various tools and methodologies in community-based disaster management activities.

Year 2008:

The first-year participants shared their knowledge and experiences with other ADRRN members in a workshop in Malaysia. Revised and final action plans were submitted by the first-year participants, and the ADRC followed up the progress of their DRR efforts after their training in Japan.

Year 2009:

Following the second year program, the first-year participants imparted further DRR tools and methodologies to government officials and other NGOs at a workshop held in Malaysia, and also developed this toolkit as a concrete outcome of the three-year project. The ADRC will follow up on the progress made on their action plans.

Tools

Through the project, the participants had opportunities to learn and exchange information on DRR tools with one another, so that they could apply them to their own activities. The following is the table of tools which were introduced during the three-year program.

Tools Introduced During the Project	
Town Watching *	Community-based hazard mapping for disaster reduction through town watching
School Watching *	Risk and hazard mapping in schools with the participation of schools and children
Tsunami disaster story, "Inamura no Hi"	Lessons learned based on a true tsunami story in Japan to be imparted to the future generations
Disaster memorial museums	Programs and exhibitions to raise public awareness through the sharing of disaster experiences
Citizens Resource Center (CRC) *	Space for cumulative knowledge, discussion and learning for schools and surrounding communities
Community radio, FMYY *	Multilingual community radio by and for communities in Kobe, Japan
Evacuation drills for community, Kobe City	Evacuation drills are conducted at the community level
Voluntary disaster prevention organisations of Kobe City "Disaster-Safe Welfare Community"	Voluntary community organisation for disaster preparedness
Disaster Prevention Duck *	Child-oriented physical game to impart basic knowledge and awareness of disaster preparedness
Puppet Theater	Puppet show for children on disaster preparedness
Kaeru Caravan	Disaster prevention activities designed to allow families to enjoy and learn about disaster preparedness
Namazu School *	Game for raising disaster awareness and promoting disaster preparedness and prevention
Child-Oriented Participatory Risk Assessment and Planning (COPRAP) *	Participatory assessment of disaster risks and strengths/weaknesses of children and communities
GIS Techniques for Hazard Profiling *	Application of GIS to risk and hazard mapping for both community and local authorities

Community-Based Knowledge Transfer Group *
Information, Education and Communication (IEC) tool to raise awareness and enhance community disaster resilience
Coastal Community Resilience (CCR) *
Collaborative rapid assessment by coastal communities, national/local governments, private sector
Emergency kit *
Introduction of evacuation bags prepared by community members
CPR Training *
First-aid training for community members to save the lives of disaster victims
Shaking table demonstration
Shaking table experiment demonstrated to community members for earthquake disaster awareness
On-site knowledge sharing, mobile earthquake clinics
Knowledge and information for homeowners and builders of informal buildings
Earthquake Imagination Game (EIG) *
PC game to acquire information on earthquake disaster response

NOTE: Asterisked tools* are described in this booklet. For details, please refer to the following section.