
2. Building a Network for Sharing Information on Natural Disasters and Disaster Reduction

2-1. Formation of a Human Network

A network is needed to share information and people are a key component in network building. Therefore, at ADRC, we are devoting a lot of energy to finding and networking the human resources that will make it possible to share information on natural disasters and disaster reduction in Asia.

2-1-1. ADRC International Meetings (Member Country's Meetings)

Since it is necessary to network human resources in order to promote disaster management cooperation in Asia, ADRC has held annual meetings of its member countries, advisor countries and observers since our inception. The first meeting was in February 1999, the second in December 1999 and the third in December 2000. The fourth was co-sponsored by the Indian government and, like those before it, brought vice-ministers, bureau chiefs, department heads and others under one roof to actively exchange thoughts and opinions. (Tables 2-1-1-1, 2-1-1-2, 2-1-1-3 and 2-1-1-4)

Through these contacts, we expect information gathering to become even swifter and more effective in the future.

Table 2-1-1-1 Member Countries

Classification: Supervisor Contact person Attended 4th Intl. Meeting

Country	Classification	Representative	Position
Armenia		Dr. Serguei Balassanian	President, National Survey for Seismic Protection, Government of the Republic of Armenia
		Simon PAPYAN	Vice-President, National Survey for Seismic Protection, Government of the Republic of Armenia
Bangladesh		Mr. BMM Muzharul Haque	Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka
		Mr. A.S.M. Abdul Haque Chowdhury	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Cambodia		Mr. Samy Peou	Secretary General, National Committee for Disaster Management
China		Mr. FANG Zhiyong	Director Division of Disaster Reduction, Department of Disaster and Social Relief
		Ms. Mei CHAI	Director Section Two Department of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Civil Affairs

Country	Classification	Representative	Position
India		Ms. Bino Sen	Special Secretary and Central Relief Commissioner, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture
		Mr. S. K. Swami	Director, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture
		Mr. Ashok PRADHAN	Former Special Secretary and Central Relief Commissioner, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture
		Mr. Naved MASOOD	Joint Secretary and Additional Central Relief Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture
		Mr. Anil SINHA	Head, National Centre for Disaster Management
		Dr. V.K.SHARMA	Professor, National Centre for Disaster Management
		Mr. V.P.PASRIJA	Assistant Director, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture
		Mr. OM PRAKASH	Technical Officer, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture
		Mr. JANAKIRAMAN	Under Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture
Indonesia		Mr. H.B.Burhanudin	Assistant Disaster Management, Coordinator Minister for People's Welfare and Poverty Alleviation
		Mr. Sugeng TRIUTOMO	Deputy Assistant, Emergency Response, National Disaster Management Coordinating Board (Bakoronas PBP)
Japan		Mr. Takefumi TAKAHASHI	Director-General for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office
		Mr. Toshiyasu Noda	Director for Disaster Preparedness, Cabinet Office
		Mr. Shigehiko OKUYAMA	Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office
		Mr. Setsuo OHTSU	Executive Assistant to the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office
		Mr. Toshiaki KITAZATO	Councilor for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office
		Mr. Masaaki NAKAGAWA	Deputy Director, Disaster Reduction Bureau, Cabinet Office
		Mr. Kenji OKAZAKI	Director Building Reduction Office, Housing Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

Country	Classification	Representative	Position
Japan		Mr. Yasushi SHIMOYAMA	Deputy Director, Disaster Risk Management Office, Disaster Reduction and Relief Division, River Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport
		Mr. Katsuo SASAHARA	Deputy Director, Sabo Planning Division, Sabo Department, River Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport
		Mr. Yasushi Taguchi	Director, Office of Disaster Reduction Research, Research and Development Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
Kazakhstan		Mr. Nurahmet Bijanov	First Deputy of chairman, Emergency Agency
		Ms. Laura H.LUKPANOVA	Main Expert, International Cooperation Office, Emergency Agency
		Mr. Marat ASHIMBAYEV	Director of Institute, Kazakh State Scientific Project, Experimental Institute Aseismic Building & Architecture
Laos		Mr. Phetsavang SOUNNALATH	Director, National Disaster Management Office, Ministry of Labor & Social Welfare
		Mr. Vilaphong Sisomvang	Training Manager Department of Social Welfare, National Disaster Management Office
Malaysia		Mr. Mohamad bin Haji Yaakub	Director, Crisis and Disaster Management Unit, National Security Division, Prime Minister's Department
		Mr. Abdul Khadir Othman	Deputy Director, Crisis and Disaster Management Unit, Division of National Security, Prime Minister's Department
Mongolia		Dr. H. YKHANBAI	Director, Department of Strategic Management and Planning, Ministry for Nature and the Environment
		Mr. Namjildorj Nyamdorj	Officer, Department of Strategic Management and Planning, Ministry for Nature and the Environment
Myanmar		Colonel Myint Htun	Director General, Fire Services Department (H.Q), Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
		Mr. U Zaw Win	Director, Fire Services Department (H.Q), Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
Nepal		Mr. Kumar Prasad POUDYAL	Director General, Dept. of Narcotics control and Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs
		Dr. Meen Bahadur Poudyal Chhetri	Director, Dept. of Narcotics control and Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs
Papua New Guinea		Mr. Leo Meninga	Secretary, Chairman of National Disaster Committee, Dept. of Provincial and Local Government Affairs
		Mr. Kaigabu Kamnanaya	Assistant Director (Risk Management), National Disaster Management Office, Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs
Philippines		Mr Melchor P Rosales	Administrator, Office of Civil Defense, Department of National Defense
		Col. Elma ALDEA	Civil Defense Deputy Administrator, Department of National Defense

Country	Classification	Representative	Position
Korea		Mr. Jong-Pal Lee	Director-General, Disaster Reduction and Preparedness Bureau, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs
		Mr. Byung Rok Lee	Director, Disaster Reduction Planning Division, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs
		Mr. CHUNG Song	Former Director, Disaster Reduction Planning Division, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs
		Mr. PARK Dugkeun	Senior Analyst, National Institute for Disaster Reduction, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs
		Mr. HWANG Hayong	Assistant Deputy Director, Disaster Reduction Planning Division Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs
Russia		Mr. Yury Brajnikov	Chief, Dept. Of International Cooperation, EMERCOM of Russia
		Dr. Vladimir Kuvshinov	Deputy Chief of Desk, Dept. of International Cooperation, EMERCOM of Russia
		Ms. Svetlana Bandurkina	Senior Expert, Dept. of International Cooperation, EMERCOM of Russia
Singapore		Mr. Tan Chan Seng	Commissioner, Singapore Civil Defense Force, Ministry of Home Affairs
		Mr. Khaizal Kalil	Staff Officer, Overseas Training Management, Singapore Civil Defense Force
		Mr. ANG Tse Meng	Head of Operations, Singapore Civil Defense Force
		Mr. Puniamoorthy RAMASAMY	Director Singapore Civil Defence Force, Civil Defense Academy
Sri Lanka		Mr. Amara Hewamadduma	Secretary, Ministry of Social Services
		Mr. W.B.J. Fernando	Director, National Disaster Management Centre, Ministry of Social Services
		Mr. W. A. Chulananda Perera	Deputy Director, National Disaster Management Centre, Ministry of Social Services
Kyrgyzstan		Dr. Abdurakhim Radjabov	First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Emergency Situation and Civil Defense
		Ms. Shakhnoza KHAIDAROVA	Ministry of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan
Thailand		Apai Chandanachulaka	Director-General, Local Administration Dept., Ministry of Interior
		Mr. Udomsak USWARANGKUR A	Deputy Director-General, Administrative Affairs, Department of Local Administration, Ministry of Interior
Uzbekistan		Mr. Sosnovsky Valentin Olegovich	Leader, Dept. Of Emergency Situation, Cabinet Ministry
Vietnam		Mr. DANG Quang Tinh	Director, Department of Dike Management and Flood Control, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
		Le Xuan Truong	Deputy Director, Department of Dike Management and Flood Control, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
		Mr. DO Huy Thinh	Chief, Bac Giang Province's Committee for Flood and Storm Control
		Mr. NGUYEN Xuan Thiep	Chief Day River Diversion Management Board, Department of Dike Management and Flood Control, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Table 2-1-1-2 Advisor Countries**Classification: Supervisor Contact person Attended 4th Intl. Meeting**

Country	Classification	Representative	Position
Australia		Mr. David Templeman	Director General, Emergency Management Australia
		Mr. Morris Bradley	Director of Business Management, Emergency Management Australia
		Mr. Rob LEE	Assistant Director Information Management & Business, Emergency Management Australia
Switzerland		Mr. Beat Kuenzi	Senior Program Officer, Division for Humanitarian Aid and Swiss Disaster Relief
		Dr. Markus Zimmermann	Member of SDR, Member of the Specialized Group "Reduction/Preparedness"
France		Mr. le Prafet Michel SAPPIN	Directeur , Direction de la Defense et de la Securite Civiles
		Colonel Philippe NARDIN	Chef de la Mission des relation internationaux, Direction de la Defense et de la Securite Civile
New Zealand		Mr. John Norton	Director, Ministry of Civil Defense and Emergency Management
		Dr. Neil Britton	Manager, Sector Development Unit, Ministry of Civil Defense and Emergency Management

Table 2-1-1-3 Observer**Classification: Supervisor Contact person Attended 4th Intl. Meeting**

Country	Classification	Representative	Position
A D P C		Dr. Suvit Yodmani	Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
		Mr. David Hollister	Deputy Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
		Ms. Lolita Caparas Garcia	Program Manager, Regional Program, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Table 2-1-1-4 Other Organizations**Classification: Supervisor Contact person Attended 4th Intl. Meeting**

	Classification	Representative	Position
UN / I S D R		Mr. Salvano BRICENO	Director Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction United Nations
UN / I S D R		Ms. Etsuko TSUNOZAKI	Economic & Social Issues, Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, United Nations
UN O C H A New York		Mr. Kenzo OHSHIMA	Under Secretary General, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN O C H A New York		Ms. Coco Hiroko USHIYAMA	Special Assistant to the Under-Secretary-General, Office of the Under-Secretary-General, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN O C H A KOBE		Ms. Feng Min Kan	Regional Advisor, Asian Disaster Response Unit, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
UN O C H A KOBE		Mr. Shuichi ODAKA	Information Manager, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations

	Classification	Representative	Position
UNOCHA INDIA		Dr. Rajan GENGAJE	National Disaster Response Officer, UN OCHA - New Delhi
UNOCHA INDIA		Ms. Arundhati RAO	National Disaster Response Assistant, UN OCHA - New Delhi
UNCRD KOBE		Mr. Rajib Kumar SHAW	Associate Expert, United Nations Centre for Regional Development Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office
UNDP INDIA		Mr. Dennis LAZARUS	Deputy Resident Representative, United Nations, Development Programme
UNDP INDIA		Mr. Prishant GIRBANE	Project Officer, United Nations Disaster Management Team, United Nations Development Programme
UNDP INDIA		Mr. G. Padmanabhan	Programme Officer, United Nations Development Programme
FAO		Mr. Naoki MINAMIGUCHI	Vulnerability Analysis Coordinator, Global Information and Early Warning Service, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
UNCHS (Habitat)		Mr. Ramanath Jha	Regional Adviser, South Asia Urban Management Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific-South Asia Sub-Office, UNHABITAT
ADB		Mr. Joseph A.WEINSTOCK	Senior Environment Specialist, Environment & Social Safeguards Division, Regional & Sustainable Development Department, Asian Development Bank
PHIVOLCS		Dr. Maria Leonila P. Bautista	Associate Scientist, Department of Science and Technology, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology

<Positions (titles) at time of the meeting are given. >

2-1-2. Outline of Fourth ADRC International Meeting

The 4th international meeting is described below.

1) Date: January 22 (Tues) - 23 (Wed), 2002

2) Place: Hotel Metropolitan Nikko, Delhe, India

Participants: Total 80 including governmental officials and experts on disaster reduction from 22 nations and 10 organizations (Table 2-1-1-1 through 2-1-1-4) and other participants.

3) Outline

Up until last year, three annual international meetings had been held in Kobe, Japan, but this year's meeting was hosted by the Government of India and ADRC because of the significance it had with the Gujarat Earthquake that had struck western India a year earlier.

A special session on the "Lessons Learned in Gujarat" was held and gave the host Indian government, member countries and participating organizations a chance to reconfirm the importance of disaster reduction systems, disaster reduction education and emergency response. The Indian government also reported that the human resource network built through ADRC international meetings and the trust shared with member countries was proved to be extremely effective in handling emergency aid acceptance and other operations.

Sessions were also staged on "International Cooperation Projects for Building Disaster Reduction Capacity" and "Promotion of Information Sharing in Disaster Reduction Fields". Both sessions confirmed the importance of "total disaster risk management" and participants agreed more cooperation should be directed at developing the proper human resources for the particular situation in each individual country and, in support of these activities, more information on natural disasters and disaster reduction could be shared by effectively utilizing new technologies including satellite communications and the internet.

It was reiterated throughout all aspects of the meeting that cooperation based on efficient utilization of the human resources, hardware assets and ideas of member countries and assisting organizations should be promoted in the Asian region in order to reduce the damage and suffering from natural disasters in the 21st century.

4) Results

Member countries reported that ADRC's activities were very effective towards building disaster reduction capacity and recovering from natural disasters in Asia.

There has been a worsening pattern of natural disasters seen in the Asian region as it is being hit by frequent earthquakes, tsunami and volcanic eruptions as well as larger floods and typhoons that are being spurred by global climatic change.

In light of the situation, the participating countries and organizations agreed the following activities are necessary in order to ensure sustainable development in the region. These activities will depend greatly on cooperation, for which much hope and expectations have been placed on ADRC.

(1) Assessment of Specific Activities

Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Indonesia reported that they were seeing steadfast results from the disaster reduction awareness activities that were implemented last year to build disaster reduction capacity, and expressed their gratitude to ADRC for the contribution to these efforts.

Also, as of this year, a new trial program in capacity building was imparted for member countries with the cooperation of expert organizations from Singapore and the Philippines and employing assets and capacities of other member countries. For example, the Philippine project applied the knowledge of The United Nations University, UNESCO, ADRC and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology to enhance the disaster reduction awareness of school administrators and elementary schools from member countries. Participants highly evaluated this kind of training program for the effective use of diverse assets.

Member countries and the United Nations strongly requested that member countries, advisor countries and organizations continue to cooperate in disaster reduction capacity building programs in the future.

(2) Visiting Researchers From Member Countries

ADRC has so far welcomed 11 persons in charge of disaster reduction from member countries to do research in Japan. These member countries included in their reports that this program contributes greatly towards developing human resources and building disaster reduction capacity in their home lands. ADRC agreed to continue with this program and to work with member countries on capacity building and human resource development.

(3) Sharing Information on Natural Disasters and Disaster Reduction

Information sharing is absolutely indispensable towards reducing damage from natural disasters, taking emergency action in a disaster situation, and recovering and rebuilding from a disaster. As information can make a country stronger against disaster, there is a need to gather and share more of it.

Participants once again highly evaluated ADRC's efforts to create a platform for sharing information made available through websites operated for member countries. They also expressed strong hopes in further development of functional aspects that would evolve the platform from pure information gathering to information dissemination and analysis in the future, as well as our development as a disaster reduction portal with the capacity to operate as a powerful clearing house of natural disaster and disaster reduction information.

To encourage information sharing on a higher level, ADRC is advocating a standardized ID number for coding disasters worldwide as well as the effective use of new technologies such as satellite communications and the Internet. ADRC will build more links to websites of member countries and related organizations in order to make more information on natural disasters and disaster reduction available for access. It is hoped that these efforts and others will contribute to the development of a disaster warning system and ultimately the reduction in disaster-triggered damage and suffering.

(4) Lessons Learned from the Gujarat Earthquake

ADRC was commended for its programs designed to share the experiences of disaster-stricken areas with member countries. With regards to the Gujarat Earthquake, ADRC co-sponsored along with the Indian government a multinational mission of member countries to Gujarat in June and staged this year's annual international meeting in India so that member countries could see for themselves the recovery process one year after the quake. ADRC has been requested to develop and implement programs that would enable stricken countries to share their experiences as well as provide their knowledge to other areas hit by a disaster.

(5) Expectations As the Focal Point for UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in Asia

Following the 4th annual international meeting, the United Nations held an Asian meeting on International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). ADRC is utilizing the knowledge of its network of human resources to develop activities as the center for ISDR in Asia.

5) Summary

To help the nations of Asia build up their disaster reduction capacity, ADRC will continue to act as an information center for Asia, gathering and disseminating information on natural disasters and disaster reduction in the region, and seek greater information sharing amongst member countries and related organizations by effectively utilizing new technologies and promoting the use of a standardized ID number for coding disasters worldwide. ADRC wants to make an even greater contribution to member countries in their efforts to build disaster reduction capacity by further developing cooperative projects with member countries and related organizations. In addition, ADRC will take on more responsibility in reducing the damage and suffering from natural disasters in 21st century Asia by working more closely with UN organizations OCHA and ISDR, and others.



Fig. 2-1-2-1 Participants to ADRC's 4th annual members' meeting

2-1-3. Asian Meeting on the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

ADRC supports the activities of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) as the operational center for Asia. The 4th ADRC International Meeting was followed by a meeting of UNISDR in Asia held under the co-host of the Japanese government and the ISDR Secretariat. An outline of the meeting follows.

1) Date: January 24 (Thur), 2002

2) Place: Hotel Metropolitan Nikko, Delhi, India

3) Participants:

Total 80 including governmental officials and experts on disaster reduction from 22 nations and 10 organizations (Table 2-1-1-1 through 2-1-1-4) and other participants.

4) Outline

The meeting opened with a keynote address on future ISDR activities by Kenzo Oshima, Under Secretary General of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In his talk, Oshima stated that "disaster reduction management is an indispensable element of sustainable development," adding that "it was the duty of ISDR to bring together disaster reduction bodies." Following his discourse came a panel discussion on the theme of "Disaster Reduction and Sustainable Development."

Each of the participating countries reported on disaster reduction efforts and ISDR activities in their home countries. In particular, it was noted that "a multilateral approach to disaster reduction management was necessary." Alleviating poverty, cooperation with local communities, scholastic education and cooperation of the media were all cited as essential to success.

Because of common and overlapping issues amongst the various countries, there was much to learn. Member countries voiced their hopes that the ISDR Secretariat and ADRC would continue to fulfill their roles in fomenting information sharing in this and other ways.

5) Results

Serving as moderator was Ashok Pradhan, Former Special Secretary and Central Relief Commissioner of the Indian Ministry of Agriculture. He pointed out the need for the following activities in order to reduce and prevent the damage and suffering from natural disasters deeply related to environmental problems such as global warming.

(1)Cooperation in Disaster Reduction

Natural disasters are an obstruction to socio-economic development in Asia. For this reason, all countries in the region should make it an important policy to strengthen their disaster reduction management and capacity.

(2)Lessons Learned in Gujarat

While still fresh in our minds, the sheer memory of such a devastating earthquake must be applied to developing future preventative measures. Sadly, it has taught us many lessons about the role of emergency relief, earthquakes in general and being prepared.

(3) Natural Disasters in the 21st Century

The increasing new dangers mankind faces are directly linked to the global population explosion. We must recognize the growing need for far-reaching preventative measures in order to reduce the physical destruction and loss of life.

(4)Promoting ISDR Activities

ISDR activities must be promoted particularly for the following reasons.

- To develop local communities for dealing with natural disasters
- To support international cooperation in disaster reduction fields so countries may be prepared for natural disaster and can properly manage their disaster preparedness

(5) International Cooperation to Prevent Natural Disasters

Disaster reduction and reduction activities could be strengthened in Asian countries through efficient and effective international cooperation.

(6) Support for International Cooperation in Disaster Reduction Fields

As countries in other regions around the world are building tighter relations in disaster reduction efforts, it is indispensable for the nations of Asia to forge a solid partnership that can make the region safe.

Lastly, Shigehiko Okuyama, Parliamentary Secretary and Cabinet Official of Japan, expressed his deep concerns about the Asian region's growing fragility against natural disasters. A large natural disaster could obstruct the socio-economic development of the entire region, hence Okuyama called upon the nations of Asia to formulate a common strategy. He emphasized the necessity of prioritizing efforts in seeking a balance amongst the environment, disaster management and economic development, in order for the Asian region to attain a level of sustainable development.

The results of this meeting will be reported at the World Summit on Sustainable Development slated for this August in Johannesburg, South Africa.