

## 2-1-4. Visiting Researchers from Member Countries

In line with agreements made at the 1<sup>st</sup> International Meeting, ADRC has been welcoming individuals from member countries to do research in Japan. To date, 11 individuals have taken part in this program and it is believed that this kind of activity is helping to strengthen disaster reduction management in their native countries. The individual projects are outlined below.

### (1) Korea

- Shim Kee-Oh
- Position at the time of visit: Project Manager, Nation's Institute for Disaster Reduction (Drought Control), Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs.
- Duration: August - October, 1999
- Researched drought control in Japan and reported on drought control in Korea. Additionally, researched and reported on recent drought disasters in Vietnam and Papua New Guinea.

### (2) Vietnam

- Ngo van Sinh
- Position at the time of visit: Water-related Disaster Management Specialist, Disaster Management Center, Committee for Flood and Storm Control, Department of Flood Management, Flood and Storm Control, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of S.R. Vietnam
- Duration: December 1999 - March 2000
- Reported on the legal system surrounding disaster reduction as well as floods in Vietnam, studied flood reduction measures in Japan and visited concerned facilities. Conducted research under Professor Takara and Assistant Professor Toda, Disaster Reduction Institute, Kyoto University, in the area of water-related disasters.

### (3) Nepal

- Lek Nath Pokharel
- Position at the time of visit: Section Officer, Disaster Relief Section, Ministry of Home Affairs
- Duration: January - May 2000
- Reported on the legal system surrounding disaster reduction as well as natural disasters in Nepal, studied landslide reduction measures in Japan and visited concerned facilities. Conducted research under Assistant Professor Nakagawa, Disaster Reduction Institute, Kyoto University.
- Reported on the possible collapse and flood management of the glacial lake Tsho Rolpa in the Himalayas and conducted research under Professor Ueda (cryospheric variation) at the Atmosphere-Hydrosphere Science Institute, Nagoya University.

### (4) Sri Lanka

- Nimal Dharmasiri Hettiarachchi
- Position at the time of visit: Deputy Director for Disaster Relief, Department of Social Services, Ministry of Home Affairs
- Duration: April - October 2000
- Reported on a basic disaster reduction bill in Parliament and natural disasters in Sri Lanka. Exchanged opinions with researchers from the UN Regional Development Center at Nagoya University and ADRC about sustainable development and its relations to disaster reduction.

### (5) Bangladesh

- M. Babul Akhter
- Position at the time of visit: Assistant Manager, Palli Karma Shayak Foundation, Treasury Department
- Duration: May - November 2000
- Reported on disaster reduction systems, natural disasters and the significance that a small business support program for women has with regards to disaster reduction in Bangladesh. Studied flood reduction and river management in Japan at the Ministry of Construction (now Ministry of Land Infrastructure and Transportation) and River Information Center because of the many flood disasters in his country.

### **(6) Sri Lanka**

- Chulananda Pelera
- Position at the time of visit: Deputy Director, Sri Lanka Ministry of Social Welfare, National Disaster Management Center
- Duration: November 2000 - April 2001
- Reported on natural disasters, the legal system surrounding disaster reduction, and organizations such as the National Disaster Management Center in Sri Lanka. Prepared a training manual in disaster reduction needed in his country.

### **(7) Armenia**

- Ripshima Bardanyan
- Position at the time of visit: Secretary to Director, Armenia National Earthquake Center (NSSP)
- Duration: March - June 2001
- Reported on disasters in Armenia including the Spitak Earthquake and disaster reduction organizations such as NSSP. Visited the Cabinet Office and disaster reduction organizations in Hyogo and Shizuoka, to research disaster reduction in Japan.

### **(8) Papua New Guinea**

- **Filomena Miria**
- Position at the time of visit: Director Education & Training, National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO)
- Duration: June-December 2001
- Reported on recent disasters in Papua New Guinea including tidal waves and the eruption of Mt. Rapowl, as well as disaster reduction organizations such as NDMO. Visited Sanriku and other locations to research tidal wave reduction measures in Japan. Prepared a training manual in disaster reduction for his country.

### **(9) Cambodia**

- **So Ban Hin**
- Position at the time of visit: Secretary-General, National Council on Disaster Management Organization (NDMO)
- Duration: June-December 2001
- Reported on flood disasters and measures in Cambodia, as well as NCDM. Visited Kamiya Dam and Kisosansen River Basin in Hyogo, as well as the Cabinet Office, NHK and the Japan Red Cross, to study flood reduction measures in Japan.

### **(10) Bangladesh**

- **Mohamed Atikzaman**
- Position at the time of visit: Deputy Director, Bangladesh Provincial Administration Training Center (BPATC)
- Duration: January - July 2002
- Reported on recent cyclones and flood disasters in Bangladesh, as well as training by BPATC. Attended JICA Disaster Reduction Training Seminar for Administrative Officers organized by ADRC in cooperation with JICA. Researched all types of disaster reduction in Japan.

### **(11) Armenia**

- **Tigran Saiyan**
- Position at the time of visit: Chairman, Subcommittee for South Region Work, Armenia National Earthquake Center (NSSP)
- Duration: February - August 2002
- Reported on antiseismic construction after the Spitak Earthquake and other earthquake measures, and activities of NSSP. Visited the Phoenix Plaza, seismic test lab and other disaster reduction organizations in Hyogo, to study disaster reduction measures in Japan.
- As of March 2002, *ADRC Highlights* is being published in Russia.

---

---

## **2-1-5. Cooperation with Other International Organizations and Initiatives**

### **1 ) United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**

As a joint project of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and ADRC, the OCHA Asia Unit (renamed OCHA Kobe in 2001) opened offices in ADRC in February 1999. Since that time, our two offices have been sharing information and, this year, we co-hosted an international conference in Katmandu and a disaster NGO workshop in Kobe, Japan (described later).

### **2 ) ReliefWeb (OCHA)**

Relief Web is the information net of OCHA. It provides reliable information on natural disasters and disaster reduction over the Internet, to support humanitarian aid activities in times of disaster. Since its launch, ADRC has linked its homepage to Relief Web and built a system, which allows UN information to be browsed efficiently via our site. Also, because of the vast amount of information available from member countries, Relief Web established a link to ADRC's website to add another source of disaster reduction information to its library. As such, information can be accessed from either site hence efficiently provided to respective users.

Relief Web opened an office in Kobe (ADRC) in August 2001. The reason for this was that their New York and Geneva offices that gathered and disseminated information could not cover the business hours of Asia because of the time difference. This move has meant increased information sharing with ADRC than ever before.

### **3 ) Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disaster, Louvain Catholic University, Brussels (CRED)**

ADRC signed an agreement with the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disaster (CRED) of Louvain Catholic University in Brussels, Belgium, to collaborate on collecting disaster reduction information, on November 5, 1999. Its aim was to comprehensively track information on disasters which occurred in the Asian region during the past century, and construct the "Database on Natural Disasters in Asia in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century", which will serve as an asset for reinforcing disaster reduction in each Asian country in the next century. CRED is the only organization in the world with a general natural disaster database. Our two parties are sharing disaster information with each other while also making it available to others.

ADRC is also involved in a joint project with Relief Web to promote the use of a unique ID number for coding natural disasters around the world. The project was reported at the Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN) meeting in March 2001 and officially launched in January 2002.

### **4 ) Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN)**

The Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN) is a project advocated and launched by the United States Department of State. The goal is to build a framework for systematically implementing international cooperation in the sharing of disaster information. It is expected to improve access to existing information and enable its effective use, hence "providing accurate and reliable information promptly to those who need it in a format they can use."

A particularly big issue is how to quickly obtain reports of disasters in their early moments. For this reason, consideration is being given to the use of satellite communications and GIS. Accordingly, this initiative aims not to compete with existing information centers but to collaborate with them and make it possible to effectively utilize each other's assets, a goal very similar to the purpose of ADRC.

Four international conferences have been held so far.

1<sup>st</sup>: July 16 - 17, 1998 in Washington DC, USA

2<sup>nd</sup>: May 11 - 14, 1999 in Mexico City, Mexico

3<sup>rd</sup>: April 26 - 29, 2000 in Ankara, Turkey

4<sup>th</sup>: April 20 - 23, 2001 in Canberra, Australia

ADRC has attended GDIN conferences since Ankara and is actively taking part in this global initiative to share information on natural disasters.

### **5 ) Asian Disaster Preparedness Center ( A D P C )**

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center ( A D P C ) was founded in Bangkok, Thailand, in 1986, as a private international disaster reduction organization. Their operations go beyond education and training in their field of activities to include consulting and information services in line with requests from countries and regions, as well as a number of programs designed to build provincial disaster reduction capacity.

Because we share the common goal of reducing damage and suffering from natural disasters in the Asian region, ADRC signed an agreement in June 2001 to cooperate on the following.

- International disaster reduction activities such as ISDR
- Technical development for disaster management information systems
- Techniques in disaster reduction training
- Joint projects