

2. Information Sharing

2-1. International Meeting and Public Forum

2-1-1. The 7th ADRC International Meeting

-Public Forum; Sharing of Experiences for Safer Asia “TDRM and its Good Practices”-

In the context of the WCDR's public forum and ADRC's annual meeting, the ADRC held the 7th ADRC International Meeting; Sharing of Experiences for Safer Asia TDRM and its Good Practices, co-organized by Hyogo Prefectural government and UN/OCHA Kobe. The meeting had a great significance for Asian countries to further promote Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) and identify specific measures and actions effective in reducing risk and vulnerability to disasters in Asia. Facilitated by Mr. Emmanuel de Guzman, Consultant to the ADRC, government officials from Bangladesh, Philippines, Laos, and China, as well as Tajikistan, made presentations on their good practices.

In addition, a special report on the situation of damage caused by the Earthquake and Tsunami in the Indian Ocean in December 2004 was delivered by Mr. Sugeng Triutomo, Director, Dept. of Disaster Mitigation, National Disaster Management Coordinating Board, Indonesia.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the establishment of long-standing cooperative ties in the area of natural disaster reduction was also exchanged between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the ADRC.

2-1-1-1. Outline of the Meeting

The outline of the 7th ADRC International Meeting is as follows:

- (1) Date: January 19 (Wed), 2005
- (2) Organizer: Asian Disaster Reduction Center, Hyogo Prefectural Government and UN/OCHA Kobe.
- (3) Participants: 210 (government officials from ADRC member countries, representatives of international and regional organizations and others)
- (4) Venue: International Conference Center Kobe, Hyogo, Japan

2-1-1-2. Summary of the Meeting

<Opening address>

The forum was opened by a congratulatory remark by Mr. Tadashi Harada, Deputy Director General for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan. First of all, he expressed his deepest condolences to those who perished and his sincerest sympathies to all of the nations and people who had been affected. Then, he described the efforts of the ADRC, OCHA Kobe, and Hyogo prefecture for reducing the negative impacts of disasters in Asian countries, and hoped they would provide long-term contribution and support to Asian countries for further disaster reduction in the future. He also mentioned that the Cabinet Office of Japan had been supporting their activities.

<Keynote speech>

Mr. Masayuki Kitamoto, Executive Director, ADRC, delivered the keynote speech titled “Promotion of TDRM in Asia. After a brief explanation about the basic concept of TDRM as a holistic approach to disaster reduction, he stressed the importance of the promotion of TDRM in member countries. He also introduced the recent publication by the ADRC, including the explanation about the TDRM approach and the good practices in Asia for promoting effective disaster reduction survey through this approach. Then, he explained the activities of three ADRC survey teams in the areas affected by the Tsunami in Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Indonesia.

He extended his deepest appreciation to the kind cooperation of the counterpart organizations of the ADRC and former visiting researchers for facilitating the surveys by the ADRC Teams.

<MOU between UNESCO and ADRC>

The signing ceremony of the MOU between UNESCO and the ADRC, aimed at strengthening the cooperative ties between the two organizations for reducing the negative impacts of disasters. Following the signing of the MOU and shaking hands with Prof. Shigeru Itoh, Chairman, ADRC, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, expressed his intentions to promote mutual exchange of information, as well as theoretical and practical experiences in natural disaster reduction between the two organizations. In response, Mr. Ito expressed his expectations to further strengthen the friendly ties between the two organizations for contribution to disaster reduction in their respective member countries.



Fig. 2-1-1-2-1 Signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNESCO and ADRC

<Special Report “The Indonesian Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster”>

Mr. Sugeng Triutomo, Director, Department of Disaster Mitigation, National Disaster Management Coordinating Board, Indonesia, firstly provided an overview of damage in the affected area with statistics and some pictures. There were more than 215 thousand dead or missing, and approximately half a million people displaced. Then he mentioned the unprecedented response from about 30 countries and more than 45 international organizations. He emphasized the importance of the proper coordination among the involved organizations.

Further, he introduced the records and analyses on the past earthquakes and tsunamis in Indonesia. He described the tendency of cyclic occurrences of earthquakes, and stressed the importance of increased preparedness for future earthquakes through TDRM approach.

(During the break of the reporting session, a video was played to show the situation in the affected area.)

<Reporting Session on TDRM Good Practices: Summary of Proceedings>

Mr. Emmanuel de Guzman, Consultant to the ADRC, opened the session as the facilitator with a comment on the importance of sharing of good practices for promoting effective disaster reduction.

H.E. Mr. Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Bangladesh, explained the paradigm shift in disaster management planning from the conventional relief & response approach to TDRM approach in Bangladesh following the establishment of the Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) in 1992 and the adoption of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Program (CDMP) in 2003. He cited several activities of the CDMP, including the mainstreaming of disaster management and risk reduction into national policies and institutional and development processes in the country, and the enhancement of community capacity. He also introduced their efforts in enhancing human capabilities as well as in improving food security status of poor people in the country through the Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP), which led to the drastic reduction of the death toll from 300,000 in 1970 to 107 in 1999.

In her presentation, **Col. Elma Aldea**, Administrator, Office of Civil Defense, Department of National Defense, Philippines, highlighted the successful and sustained collaboration and partnership facilitated by the Provincial Disaster Management Team among the government, NGOS and communities in the province of Negros Occidental. She stressed the importance and benefits of building alliances, enhancing information systems, training volunteers, strengthening local coordinating councils, and ensuring active community involvement in disaster management.

Mr. Vilayphong Sisomvang, Training Manager, Department of Social Welfare and National Disaster Management, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao PDR cited the community-based disaster management project in Champasak District aimed at reducing the vulnerability of the community to floods and droughts by improving early warning systems. This can be achieved through collaboration with the media, increasing community awareness of risks and options for response by establishing an awareness campaign unit, developing a community-based hazard mapping program, incorporating disaster management education into school curricula and promoting more appropriate agricultural practices that ensure food security at the village level.

Ms. Yuan Yi, Program Officer, China National Center for Disaster Reduction, reported on the case of Typhoon Ranim in August 2004, whose impact was the worst since 1956. She cited the countermeasures taken by the government for strengthening the preparedness, response and reconstruction capabilities including an early warning system. She made an historical comparison of responses and cited the importance of emergency plans including establishment of command systems, preparation of emergency materials and funds, strengthening of local capacity for prevention capabilities through trainings and drills, and enhancement of public awareness and knowledge on disaster risks.

Mr. Abdurahim Rajabov, First Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, Tajikistan and **Mr. Khusrav Sharifov**, Programme Officer, UNDP Tajikistan explained the good practices concerning the Lake Sarez Disaster Mitigation Project (LSRMP), which included flood early warning systems. They also introduced a strong and effective partnership and coordination mechanism called REACT (Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team), which facilitates inter-agency contingency planning, coordinated and joint response to disasters, and serves as an information sharing platform.

The comments from the floor (participants from Kyrgyz, Nepal, EU, JICA, and India) pointed out the importance of enhanced preparedness, advocacy for prevention, improved coordination, research, volunteerism, early warning systems, and psychosocial care for disaster victims, especially children. Mr. de Guzman concluded the session by emphasizing the importance of the involvement of all the stakeholders for effective disaster reduction.

<**Closing Remarks**>

The Forum was closed with a comment by Mr. Kitamoto that emphasized the urgent need to promote TDRM for effective reduction of disaster risks to ensure sustainable development in Asia.

2-1-2. Public Forum “Recovery from Catastrophic Disasters - towards a safer world for all –”

On the occasion of the Disaster Prevention Day (September 1) and the Disaster Prevention Week (August 30- September 5), the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) co-organized a Public Forum titled “Recovery from Catastrophic Disasters - towards a safer world for all-” with the Cabinet Office of Japan, the United Nations University (UNU), and the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at the UNU, Tokyo, Japan on August 24, 2004. Supported by USAID, NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) and Hyogo Prefectural Government, the forum gathered over 250 participants. The organizers had the honor to receive H.I.H. the Crown Prince of Japan.

The main objective of the forum was to discuss and propose how we could reduce disaster risk with a view to ensuring sustainable development through experiences of Iran, India and Japan as well as other countries prone to disasters.

The forum started with the keynote speech of Ms. Helena Molin-Valdes, Deputy Director, UN/ISDR, titled “World Conference on Disaster Reduction - A new milestone event for reducing disasters”. It was followed by four presentations; 1) “Disaster Recovery: Faster, Better, or Safer?” by Dr. Patricia Bolton, Senior Research Scientist, Battelle Seattle Research Center, USA, 2) “Challenge of Bam Earthquake - road map for safer communities” by Mr. Kamal Kishore, Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor for South and Southwest Asia, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), UNDP, 3) “Recovery and Reconstruction towards Disaster Resilient Communities - from Lessons Learnt in Japan -” by Mr. Tadashi Harada, Deputy Director General for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, Japan, and 4) “Sustainable Post-Disaster Recovery -Turning Disasters into Opportunities for Development” by Mr. Andrew Maskrey, Chief, Disaster Reduction Unit, BCPR, UNDP.

Subsequently, a panel discussion by the five experts was held. In conclusion, the coordinator of the panel discussion, Prof. Kishie Shigekawa, Fuji-Tokoha University, Japan, pointed out that development of a mechanism for sharing lessons and experiences of disasters, especially in the phase of recovery and reconstruction, should be pursued in order to develop safe communities and effective disaster risk management frameworks.



Fig.2-1-2-1 Presence of H.I.H. the Crown Prince of Japan



Fig. 2-1-2-2 Panel discussion