

2-5. Internet-based information sharing

2-5-1. ADRC's Website

As shown in Fig. 2-5-1-1, ADRC's website (URL <http://www.adrc.or.jp/>) consists of the following 13 databases plus access to VENTEN, ADRC's internet-based GIS (URL <http://venten.www.adrc.or.jp/>): Latest Disaster Information, Multi-lingual Glossary on Natural Disasters, Training Information Database, ADRC E-Net (ADRC Expert Network), Conference and Disaster Studies, Internet Exhibition, Disaster Information from Member Countries, ADRC Highlights, Disaster Reports from Member Countries, ADRRN (Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network), Archives, the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Database, and Center Information.

There are also pages introducing U.N. International Strategies for Disaster Reduction. Moreover, GLIDENumber.net (URL <http://glidenum.net/>), a disaster information generation and retrieval site using GLIDE (GLobal unique disaster IDentifier number) has been in operation since May 2004. In addition, an Affected Area Image Information system is now in the pilot rollout phase.

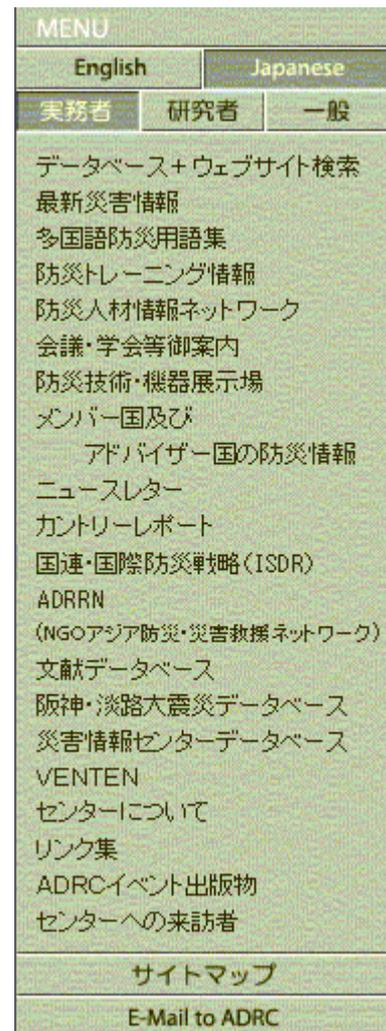


Fig.2-5-1-1 ADRC HP Menu

As shown by Fig. 2-5-1-2, these disaster reduction-related data are stored in their corresponding databases. When there is an access request from the Internet, the information is retrieved from the corresponding database and sent to the user in a hypertext format based on instructions on display coloring and layouts. Separate storage of the content data in the database from the layout instruction data frees administrators of complicated layout settings and allows easy layout change in batches to keep pace

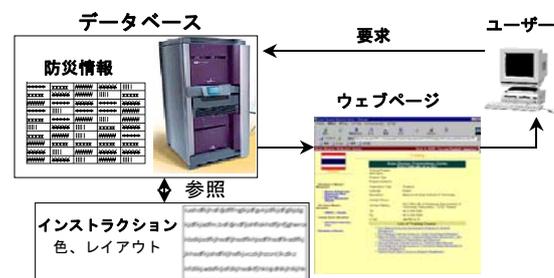


Fig. 2-5-1-2 Linked Database-driven

with user needs and technological innovation. This way of database management makes it possible to provide users with two ways of information access (by content or by country) as well as a directory that further facilitates access.

To help understand how to access the information stored in the databases, let us take a look at ADRC's Latest Disaster Information database. This particular database collects and disseminates information on ongoing natural disasters as rapidly as possible. It collects web reports from relevant organizations such as the UN and the media, summarizes their contents, and provides links to the original sources. As shown in Fig. 2-5-1-3, these data are managed into two tables, classified respectively by disaster event and by report. (In response to) a request from a user, these tables are used to extract the relevant data from the database and create a report according to the layout instructions.

Remote updating is performed over the Internet as shown in Fig. 2-5-1-4. Since the previous year, it has become possible to update information via the Web pages except for some functions. This allows delivery of more accurate information and faster updating of information.

The latest disaster information is collected and recorded by full-time and part-time ADRC staff to minimize the time lag from when a disaster occurs until the relevant information is made available. On December 26, 2004, when a massive earthquake hit the Sumatra region in Indonesia and a huge Tsunami swept the Indian Ocean, this ADRC site had 100,000 access requests per hour via the direct link on Yahoo News Portal.

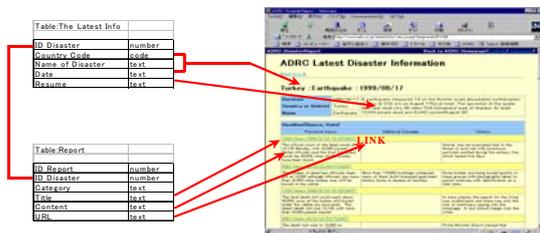


Fig. 2-5-1-3 Latest Disaster Information and Window Layout

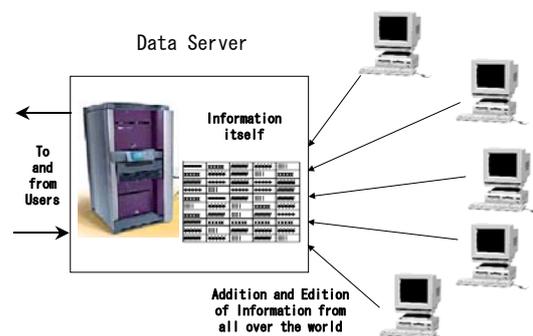


Fig. 2-5-1-4 Remote Updating over the Internet

To make the ADRC website more convenient, the following features have been incorporated:

- (1) an easy-to-use menu for three types of users (Professional, Academic and General),
- (2) a dual structure consisting of image-embedded pages and text-only pages, either of which can be selected according to the connection type of the user,
- (3) a dual structure consisting of English and Japanese pages, and
- (4) a platform that allows the user to select the options given in features (1) - (3).

Welcome to the Asian Disaster Reduction Center(ADRC) web site
--- Entry Page ---

Selection of ADRC website display form			
Language	<input checked="" type="radio"/> English	<input type="radio"/> Japanese	
Display form	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Graphics	Text (Under preparation)	
User classification	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Professional use	<input type="radio"/> Academic use	<input type="radio"/> General use
<input type="button" value="ENTER"/>			
DB + WWW search Select Language <input checked="" type="radio"/> English <input type="radio"/> Japanese			
Keyword <input type="text"/>		<input type="button" value="SEARCH"/>	
Topics			
02/04/12	An earthquake struck north of Afghanistan's capital.		NEW

Fig. 2-5-1-5 Entry Page

An entry page is provided to guide the user through these features (See Fig. 2-5-1-5).

The top page of the ADRC website uses a clickable image map¹ to facilitate easy viewing of the latest disaster information. Due to the significant increase in the volume of the data of the website, a powerful search engine is equipped to allow faster access to information in the ADRC website and other linked sites (see

The mark in a map is being inter locked with Topics.

TOPICS

- 02/04/12 ■ An earthquake struck north of Afghanistan's capital. NEW
- 02/03/23 ■ A forest fire which started on March 23 in the southern province of Vietnam, has destroyed thousands of hectares of virgin forest. NEW
- 02/04/03 ■ Eight killed in northern Papua New Guenia landslide, 22 missing
- 02/03/31 ■ A powerful earthquake hit North Taiwan on March 31,

¹ Clickable map: a function supported by Web browsers. It allows the user to jump to destinations specified by links embedded in images. The term also refers to images with such functions. Since it is possible to bundle multiple links in a single image, clickable maps are frequently used for map image-embedded websites or menus placed on the top or left of web pages.

Fig. 2-5-1-6).

The traffic to ADRC website is increasing. Especially, after 26 Dec. 2004, the access traffic increased by 3-4 times compared to the previous month. (See Fig. 2-5-1-7).

According to Google, an Internet search engine operator, the number of hits returned for the phrase “Asian Disaster Reduction Center” in Japanese and English have increased approx. by 245% to 6,240, and by 92% to 110,000, respectively.

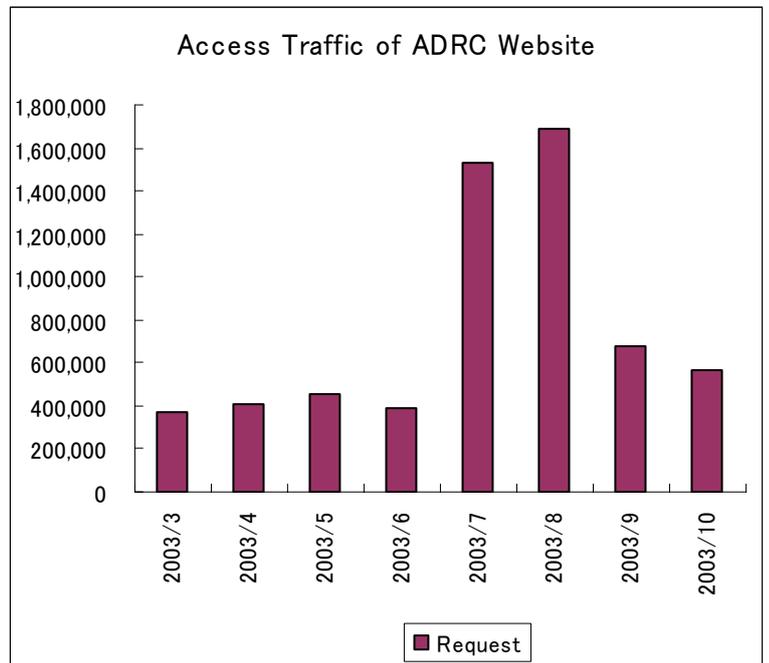


Fig. 2-5-1-7 Access Traffic

2-5-2. Latest Disaster Information Database

When a natural disaster occurs, information on the extent of the damage, the situation of the affected area, and emergency response & relief is collected and disseminated by the mass media, local and central governments, international organizations, NGOs, etc. However, most of the information is provided individually and it takes time to get all the necessary information.

The ADRC developed a database and started to publish the latest disaster information webpage in order to contribute as a clearinghouse of disaster information from various sources in September 1998. Summarized information with direct links to the original information sources has been provided on the pages for rapid search and retrieval of information.

In particular, the database provides a brief summary of disasters (dates, locations, and overviews), brief outlines of damage situations, link information categorized by reports/articles, geographic data, emergency relief information, urgent reports from supporting members of the ADRC, and graphic information. In addition, the database provides a new function using the“VENTEN”- Internet-based GIS for disaster management which allows users to jump to the map information of the affected areas.

The database provides information of more than 800 disasters in the world as of the end of February 2005.

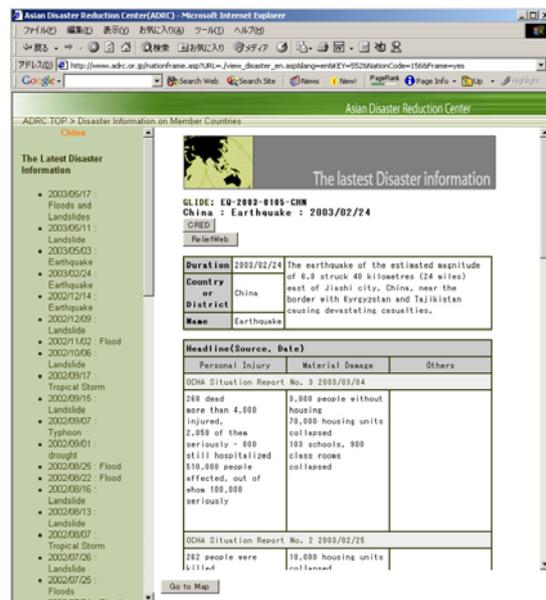


Fig. 2-5-2-1 Latest disaster info. page

2-5-3. Multilanguage Glossary on Disaster Reduction

A multilanguage glossary on disaster reduction (Japanese, English, Spanish, French and Chinese) was compiled through the activities of the United Nation's IDNDR launched in 1990. To make the glossary available for a wider range of individuals, the ADRC has been providing online translation services in languages other than Chinese.

With the addition of the Korean language to the existing 5-language glossary, the Korean and Chinese glossary databases was completed in 2002.

Thus, a 6-language glossary is now available on the ADRC website. All the Korean terms in the database were checked by Dr. Dugkeun Park, a senior analyst of the National Institute for Disaster Prevention of the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs, the counterpart organization of South Korea, an ADRC member country.

The glossary contains about 3,200 terms - mainly disaster-related terms that are hard to find in ordinary dictionaries - and has been facilitating sharing of information related to disaster reduction and management, such as numerical data, technical materials and study reports.

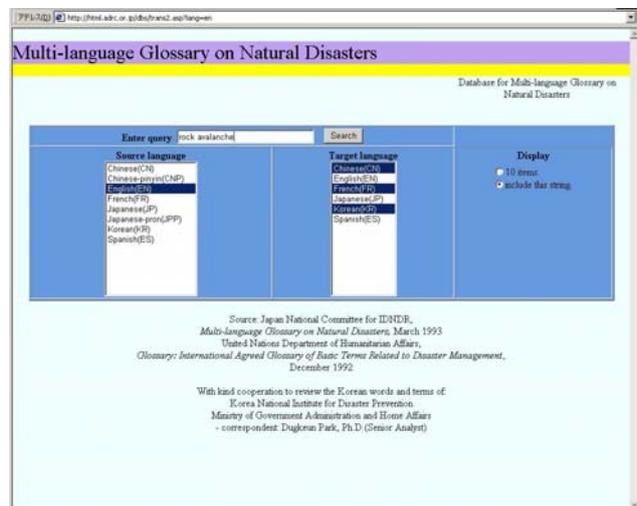


Fig. 2-5-3-1 Multilanguage Glossary on Natural Disaster

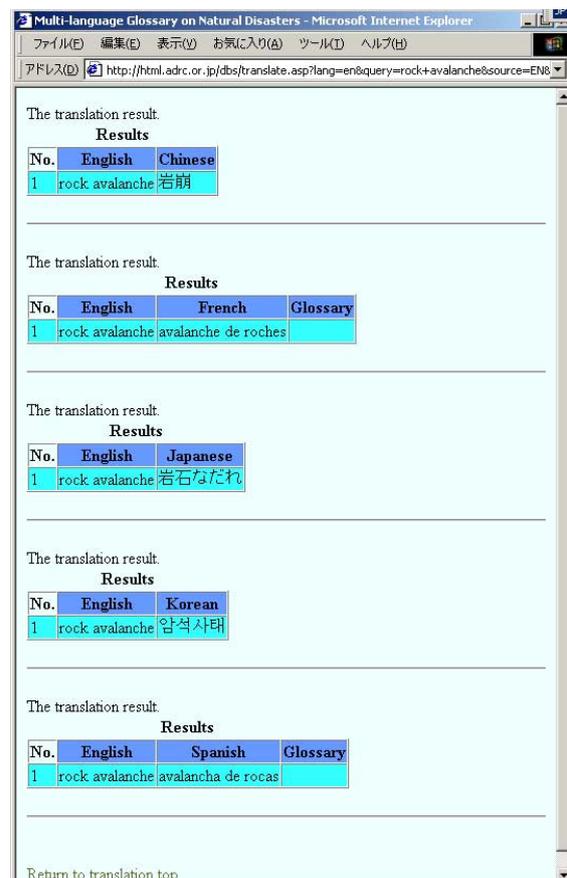


Fig. 2-5-3-2 Translation into 5 languages

2-5-4. ADRC Newsletter: "ADRC Highlights"

The ADRC has been using the Internet and e-mail to share information with its counterparts in member countries, and with other interested parties. As one of its mainstay tools for information dissemination, the ADRC has been issuing the twice-a-monthly newsletter "ADRC Highlights" since June 1, 1999. This newsletter is made publicly available on the Web. It is also e-mailed in English and Japanese to ADRC's counterparts, participants in the past ADRC annual meetings, ADRC personnel at home and abroad, visitors to the ADRC, and participants in international conferences the ADRC has taken part in. The numbers of subscribers in Japanese, English and Russian have increased to 504, 1640 and 74, respectively.

The contents include articles on the latest ADRC activities, reports on international conferences, and other events which ADRC staff attended and gave presentations in, as well as national reports by ADRC visiting researchers from member countries. At international conferences and other events, ADRC staff have frequently been asked questions related to the contents of the newsletter. The ADRC also receives responses to the newsletter immediately after it is e-mailed. The newsletter is considered an effective tool for information sharing.

Table 2-5-4 Headlines from ADRC Highlights (FY 2004)

Vol.	Issue Date	Main Feature	Other Topics
90	4/1	World Congress on Natural Disaster Mitigation was held at New Delhi, India, 19-22 February, 2004	Public Forum "Catastrophic Floods" was held at UNU, Tokyo on March 23 Recent Natural Disasters in Asia: Earthquake in Turkey
91	4/16	U.S.A. joins ADRC as Advisor Country.	31st session of WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, March 2004. ADRC Staff Profiles No. 17-Mr. Takuzo Ishii, Senior Researcher
92	5/1	ADRC Cooperative Project 2003 (Singapore)-International Urban Search & Rescue Course	JICA Seminar on Disaster Management JFY2003
93	5/16	ISDR 9th Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting held in Geneva on 4-5 May 2004	The First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held on 6-7 May 2004

Vol.	Issue Date	Main Feature	Other Topics
94	6/1	ADRC Cooperative Project FY2003:Earthquake Disaster Management Seminar in Mongolia	ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report: Mr. Rahmonov Suhrobsho from Tajikistan Recent Natural Disasters in Asia: Storm in Myanmar
95	6/16	ADRC Dispatched Research Team to Bangladesh.	ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report GLIDE Technical Meeting was held at Geneva on 3 May, 2004.
96	7/1	ADRC develops Disaster Administrator Seminars for Turkey.	ADRC Staff Profiles No.18-Mr. Akihiro Teranishi, Senior Researcher The third Regional Consultative Meeting was held at Makati, Philippines. United Nations Award for Disaster Reduction
97	7/16	ADRC has a New Executive Director.	ADRC Presents GLIDE at GDIN2004 Disaster Management System in Nepal-Contributed Article by ADRC former VR Mr. Lekh Nath Pokharel ADRC will hold Public Forum "Recovery from Catastrophic Disasters"on August 24.
98	8/1	Greetings from Executive Director of ADRC, Masayuki Kitamoto	Promoting GLIDE for Effective Disaster Information Sharing
99	8/16	ADRC New Visiting Researcher's Report-Ms. Yuan Yi from China	Consultative Meeting of Asian NGOs for the Asian Disaster Reduction and Relief Network (ADRRN) was held in KL, Malaysia. Public Forum "Recovery from Catastrophic Disasters" on August 24 is around the corner.
100	9/1	Public Forum "Recovery from Catastrophic Disasters" held at UNU, Tokyo on August 24	11th TIEMS Conference held in Melbourne, Australia on 18-21 May 2004
101	9/16	ADRC New Visiting Researcher's Report-Ms. Bouasy Thammasack from Laos	ADRC Cooperated Training Course on Flood Hazard Mapping in Viet Nam Recent Natural Disasters in Asia:Floods in China
102	10/1	National Workshop on Disaster Risk Management was held in Tajikistan.	13th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering held in Vancouver, Canada Announcement-International art contest for young people aged 16 and under

Vol.	Issue Date	Main Feature	Other Topics
103	10/16	ADRC Dispatched Lecturers to Disaster Management Seminar in Turkey.	Disaster Management Training Course for Central Asia and the Caucasus
104	11/1	ADRC received "Kalasag Award" from Government of the Philippines.	The Workshop of ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee held in Seoul, Rep. of Korea ADRC conducted a field survey on the Toyooka Flood, Hyogo in western Japan.
105	11/16	Recent ISDR Activities	ADRC Dispatched Research Team to Niigata. ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report-Mr. Shyam Sunder from India
106	12/1	International Symposium "Living with Risk-Disaster reduction for future generations-" to be held on 17 January 2005 in Kobe	Status of Recovery Following the Bam-Earthquake in Iran Recent Natural Disasters in Asia:Floods in the Philippines
107	12/16	Public Forum: Sharing of Experiences for Safer Asia "TDRM and its Good Practices" to be held on 19 January 2005 in Kobe	International Symposium "Living with Risk" is around the corner ADRC Dispatched a Lecturer to International Seminar in Iran Visitors to ADRC- Mr. Yoshitaka Murata, the Minister of State for Disaster Management, Gov. of Japan Recent Natural Disasters in Asia: Floods in the Philippines
108	1/1&16	Recent Natural Disasters in Asia:Tsunami Disaster in Indian Ocean	ADRC Dispatched Survey Teams to the Affected Countries.
109	2/1	The World Conference on Disaster Reduction Drew to a Successful Close	Public Forum: Sharing of Experiences for Safer Asia "TDRM and its Good Practices" was held on 19 January 2005 in Kobe. International Symposium "Living with Risk-disaster reduction for future generations-" was held on 17 January 2005 in Kobe.
110	2/16	Joined JICA Field Survey Team to the Maldives	TDRM's Good Practices are on the web. United Nations Award for Disaster Reduction
111	3/1	JICA Seminar on Disaster Management JFY2004	ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report: Mr. Ross Sovann from Cambodia

Vol.	Issue Date	Main Feature	Other Topics
112	3/16	UNESCO International Meeting for Tsunami was held in Paris on 3-8 March, 2005.	ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report: Mr. B. B. Malla from Nepal ADRC Cooperative Project 2004 (Singapore)-International Urban Search & Rescue Course