

4-2. Collaboration with International Organizations

With support from the Cabinet Office of Japan, the ADRC has been promoting cooperation and collaboration with various UN organizations such as, among others, the UN/ISDR, the UN/OCHA, UNESCO, the UNU, the UN/ESCAP, and the WMO.

4-2-1. Collaboration with UN/ISDR

The ADRC is working in close collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) in promoting disaster reduction activities worldwide.

4-2-1-1. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

With a strong recognition of the need for international and regional collaboration in disaster reduction efforts, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in 1987, designating the 1990's as the "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR)" to promote disaster reduction activities in order to drastically reduce the negative impacts of natural disasters. The activities of the IDNDR were supported by national committees of more than 140 countries. The Decade, however, was completed in 1999.

Following the Decade, the United Nations General Assembly put forward a proposal on November 1, 1999, prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to launch a new program "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)" to carry on with the efforts made by the IDNDR. The proposal included the establishment of an Inter-Agency Task Force and an Inter-Agency Secretariat for the implementation of the ISDR as well as the continuation and reinforcement of the national committees established through the IDNDR.

The main objectives of the ISDR are 1) to increase the capacity of societies and communities to cope with natural disasters, and 2) to make a shift from post-disaster responses to disaster reduction and risk management.

In addition, activities to 1) increase public awareness of disaster risks, 2) encourage active participation of public authorities in disaster reduction, 3) stimulate inter-disciplinary and intersectoral partnership and networking at all levels, as well as to 4) improve further the scientific knowledge of natural hazards and disasters were proposed as the four core activities of the ISDR.

The resolution was adopted at the UN GA in December 1999, and the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the ISDR was established in January 2000 as the principal mechanism of the UN to implement the strategy under the supervision of the Under-Secretary General (USG) for Humanitarian Affairs.

The main roles assigned to the ISDR Secretariat are to: 1) act as the center of various international disaster reduction activities implemented by the UN, 2) provide support to the Inter-Agency Task Force, 3) promote a culture of prevention worldwide, 4) serve as an international hub for the dissemination and exchange of information and knowledge on disaster reduction strategies, and 5) to provide assistance to the national committee of each country.

The Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Disaster Reduction consists of members from UN agencies, civil society and regional representatives, with the USG for Humanitarian Affairs of the UN as the Chairman and the Director of the ISDR secretariat as the Secretary. The roles assigned to the IATF include: 1) preparing proposals concerning disaster reduction strategies and policies of the UN, 2) presiding over the results of each policy, 3) ensuring inter-agency coordination of policies, implemented by different agencies, 4) providing guidance to the ISDR Secretariat on the policies and 5) making arrangements for meetings of disaster reduction professionals. The ADRC became a member of the IATF as a regional representative in April 2002, and has been attending the Meetings held in Geneva twice a year, in spring and fall.

In addition to the promotion of the four core activities of the ISDR Secretariat mentioned above, the IATF members are encouraged to participate in working groups. Four working groups were established in 2000: WG1 on Climate and Disasters, WG2 on Early Warning, WG3 on Risk, Vulnerability and Impact Assessments, and WG4 on Wildland Fires, to assess the relationships between these factors and disasters. The ADRC has actively

participated in the activities of two groups, WG2 and WG3. Three of the four working groups, WG1, WG2, and WG4, were dissolved, while the WG3 continued its operation until the end of 2004. Instead, four new working groups were launched as follows: WG1 on World Conference on Disaster Reduction; WG2 on Reducing Urban Risk and Vulnerability; WG3 on Reducing Risk for Adapting to Climate Change; and WG4 on Disaster Reduction in Africa. The ADRC has been participating in the activities of the WG1 (World Conference on Disaster Reduction) and WG2 (Reducing Urban Risk and Vulnerability).



Fig. 4-2-1-1 9th Meeting of the IATF

In 2004, the 9th and 10th Meeting of the IATF were held in Geneva in May and October, respectively. Being organized back to back with the preparatory meetings for the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR), these meetings also discussed and pointed out the importance of strengthening the collaboration with, as well as enhancing the cooperation among the UN agencies and other international organizations. The ADRC reported on its efforts for promotion of disaster reduction cooperation including the ADRC events to be undertaken during the WCDR, and on the method of generating GLIDE numbers.

4-2-1-2. International Conference on Disaster Reduction in Beijing, China

Beijing, China

The ADRC participated in the International Conference on Disaster Reduction held on May 25-27, 2004 in Beijing, China, organized by the Chinese Government, in close cooperation with the UN/ISDR. This conference aimed to promote regional cooperation and collaboration in disaster reduction, and integration of disaster reduction into the planning, policies and implementation of development plans. Based on the results of the conferences recently organized by the ADRC in Cambodia and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in Bangladesh, the conference focused on sharing information on successful stories in disaster reduction and brainstorming on regional priorities to be included in the international Plan of Action. The ADRC delivered a keynote speech on the outcomes of “Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2004” held in Cambodia, followed by a presentation on Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) on the second day.



Fig. 4-2-1-2-1 International Conference on Disaster Reduction in Beijing, China

4-2-2. Collaboration with UN/OCHA Kobe

With the support from the Cabinet Office of Japan and Hyogo prefecture, the ADRC has

been promoting cooperation and collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA) since February 2000. The OCHA Asian Disaster Response Unit (OCHA Kobe since 2001) was established to jointly implement disaster management programs and enhance capacity building for disaster reduction in Asia.

From June 28 to July 8, 2004, the ADRC was invited to participate in a series of “Training Course on Flood Hazard Mapping”, which was co-organized by the UNDP/DMU (Disaster Management Unit) and the USAID (see Chapter 3-1-1), as well as in an international Seminar held in Iran, co-organized by the UN/OCHA, the UNDP and the UN/ISDR and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

4-2-2-1. International Seminar in Iran

The ADRC dispatched a lecturer to the international seminar on “Policies and Practices for Earthquake Management in Urban Areas” held in Tehran on November 16-18, 2004. The seminar was organized by the UN/OCHA, the UNDP, the UN/ISDR and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the participation of over 150 participants, including authorities in charge of disaster risk management, practitioners, experts and representatives of international organizations from 20 countries.

Dr. Kurita, Senior Researcher of the ADRC participated in the seminar as an expert and made a presentation entitled “Japan's experience of the 1995 Kobe Earthquake and advancement of design standard.”

As the outcome of the seminar, the “Tehran Message on Earthquake Risk Reduction for the WCDR and beyond” was compiled in order to emphasize on the importance of a variety of subjects to be taken up at the WCDR to be held on January 18-22, 2005, Kobe, Japan. Included among such subjects were the general earthquake countermeasures in urban areas, building codes, seismic retrofitting, women's role in disaster reduction, local capacity building, and cost benefit analysis.



Fig. 4-2-2-1 Presentation by Dr. Kurita



Fig. 4-2-2-2 International Seminar in Iran

4-2-3. Collaboration with UNU

The ADRC has been working closely with the United Nations University (UNU) and has strengthened the partnership through, for example, the joint organization of a public forum

and a workshop in the fiscal year 2004.

4-2-3-1 Public Forum on Catastrophic Flood Disaster Reduction

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 UN ISDR Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at the UNU, Tokyo, Japan on August 24, 2004. In cooperation with the USAID, NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) and Hyogo Prefectural Government, the forum gathered over 250 participants. (See Chapter 2-1-2)

4-2-3-2. UNU-EHS & ADRC International Workshop: Measuring Vulnerability and Coping Capacity

The ADRC jointly organized the international workshop on “Measuring Vulnerability and Coping Capacity” with the Institute for Environment & Human Security, United Nations University (UNU-EHS) on January 23 and 24, 2005, at the meeting room of the ADRC in Kobe, Japan. This workshop aimed to develop vulnerability indicators, and to promote analysis and assessment of vulnerability by sharing information on activities and researches conducted by various organizations. The workshop was held under the following three themes:

- (1) Framework: Theoretical Basis and Principles of Indicator Development
- (2) Current Approaches: State of the Art, and
- (3) Future: Scope and Mandate of the Expert Group



Fig. 4-2-3-2-1 UNU-EHS & ADRC International Workshop

There are many kinds of methods for measuring disaster vulnerability using past disaster events, measuring methods by typify the cities in the workshop. In this workshop, the ADRC presented the mechanism of natural disaster reduction using the TDRM concept, and some examples of methods for measuring vulnerability in Japan, and proposed a new method for measuring disaster vulnerability by 3 dimensional matrices.

Mechanism of Natural Disaster Reduction

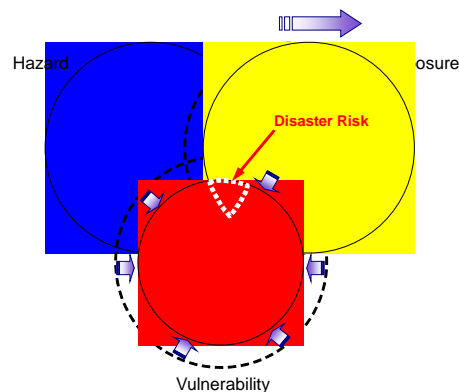


Fig. 4-2-3-2-2 Mechanism of Natural Disaster Reduction

4-2-4. Collaboration with UNESCO

The ADRC exchanged the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which aims “to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world”, in order to promote effective and efficient disaster reduction activities through further enhancement of collaboration and utilization of knowledge, resources and human networks of UNESCO and the ADRC. The ADRC participated in the UNESCO-hosted disaster risk reduction education program held in the Philippines in 2001 as a partner, and Dr. Badoui Rouhban actively joined the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction and the TDRM Conference as a resource person in the fiscal year 2003. It is hoped that the exchange of the MoU will contribute to form close ties with UNESCO.

In addition, UNESCO was assigned to play the leading role in the establishment of a tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean. The ADRC will support UNESCO by providing a training program for government officials, creating tsunami pamphlets, and conducting a survey on disaster awareness in tsunami-prone areas, in order to enhance knowledge and awareness of tsunami disaster reduction among government officials and local people.

4-2-4-1. Exchange of MoU with UNESCO

The ADRC exchanged the MoU with the UNESCO for the purposes of: 1) exchange of information, experiences, expertise, and research achievements, 2) exchange of education and training materials, 3) study of possible cooperation and collaboration, 4) exchange of views, and 5) development of relationship.

The ADRC-UNESCO MoU was signed and exchanged by Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO and Prof. Shigeru Ito, Chairman of the ADRC, for establishing long-standing cooperative ties in the area of natural disaster reduction. Mr. Matsuura expressed his intention to promote the exchange of information, experiences, theoretical and practical expertise related to natural disaster reduction between the two organizations. Mr. Ito indicated that ADRC moves onto the second stage through the partnership with UNESCO.



Fig. 4-2-4-1-1 Exchange of MoU with UNESCO

4-2-4-2. UNESCO International Meeting for Tsunami

The "International Coordination Meeting for the Development of a Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for the Indian Ocean" within a global framework was held at the UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, on March 3-8, 2005, gathering 300 participants from 48 member countries, 24 related international organizations and observers.

The meeting started with an opening address by Mr. Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, and followed by presentations. An ADRC Senior Researcher, Mr. Teranishi, delivered a presentation titled Awareness Building and Public Information. He reported on the tsunami awareness project in Papua New Guinea, tsunami seminars for affected countries, and an interview survey in Sri Lanka.

In the the second half of the meeting, the participants were divided into groups to prepare draft plans. The outcomes are; (1) Draft work plan and timetable for the Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for the Indian Ocean, (2) Draft Design Plan for tsunami warning systems for global, regional and national levels, and (3) Indian Ocean Member States fully informed at the technical level on the tsunami warning and mitigation program.

In addition, the meeting stressed the importance of adequate and appropriate measures for dissemination of tsunami early warning for each community and the message to be easily understood by the whole community.

A Communique and the Terms of Reference were adopted. It was agreed that the next meeting was to be held in Mauritius on April 14-16, 2005.

4-2-5. Collaboration with UN/ESCAP

The ADRC has been working closely with the United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (UN/ESCAP) in the pursuit of reducing disasters in Asia, in particular, climate and water related disasters. The ADRC participated actively in the activities of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee in the fiscal year 2004, in collaboration with the Government of Japan, to promote hazard mapping in member countries as a communication tool for disaster risk reduction.

4-2-5-1. UN/ESCAP Regional Workshop

"The Regional Workshop on Methodologies of Social-Economic Impacts of Disasters in Asia and their Application for Poverty Eradication and Economic Development" was organized by the UN/ESCAP in Bangkok, Thailand on May 18-20, 2004. The workshop aimed to develop and apply a methodology for natural disaster impact assessment. the ADRC presented the activities and GLIDE.

4-2-5-2. ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee

The 37th Session of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee Workshop was held from November 16 to 18, 2004, in Shanghai, China.

The ADRC was invited to the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee Workshop, titled Living with Risk - Dealing with Typhoon-Related Disasters as Part of Integrated Water

Resources Management”, held on September 20 to 24, 2004, in Seoul, South Korea. The workshop aimed to prepare flood hazard maps of member countries, and to develop early warning technologies for reducing the impacts of landslides and flash floods. The ADRC, in close cooperation with Infrastructure Development Institute (IDI, Japan) and the Korea Water Resources Corps. (KOWACO), hosted an on-site training program for trainers on the community-based flood hazard mapping technique.

4-2-6. Collaboration with WMO

The collaborative ties between the ADRC and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) have been strengthened through the promotion of the GLIDE initiative (GLobal unique disaster IDentifier number) as well as through the activities of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones and the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee.

4-2-6-1. Collaboration in the GLIDE initiative

The WMO has been actively involved in the GLIDE initiative, which the ADRC had developed in cooperation with the CRED and the ReliefWeb, as a tool to enhance disaster information sharing, in particular, sharing of information of meteorological disasters such as typhoons, hurricanes and cyclones. The WMO agreed to apply the GLIDE system to new tropical cyclones (including typhoons, hurricanes and cyclones) and proposed a hazard code system for hydro-meteorological disasters for the application of GLIDE. For further details regarding the GLIDE initiative, see Chapter 2-6-3.

4-2-6-2. 2nd Regional Technical Conference on Tropical Cyclones and Storm Surges

The ADRC participated in the 2nd Regional Technical Conference on Tropical Cyclones and Storm Surges held on July 1-3, 2004 in Brisbane. About 40 people joined the conference from the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones and the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee.

The discussion was actively conducted for further developing the methods of prediction, forecast and early warning, in order to reduce the negative impacts caused by meteorological disasters including cyclones, typhoons, tornados and lightnings. The conference was composed of 3 parts by theme including meteorology, hydrology and disaster reduction. The ADRC delivered a keynote speech at the session on its activities for disaster reduction and some of the key issues to be considered in the Asian countries.

4-2-6-3. 32nd Session of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones

The 32nd Session of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones was held on February 21-26, 2005 in New Delhi, hosted by the Government of India. The session was convened to review the cyclone-related disaster prevention and preparedness activities in the member countries with an aim to reduce the negative impacts of cyclones in the region. It had a special significance that, in response to the catastrophic tsunami which severely affected the coastal areas of five out of eight Panel member countries, the participants discussed the urgent need for an effective tsunami warning system which could be an extension and improvement of the existing cyclone warning system. A Senior Researcher, Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki, presented the activities of the ADRC focusing on community awareness as a crucial factor for disaster reduction.

4-2-7. Collaboration with International Organizations and Initiatives

4-2-7-1. Collaboration with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

1) ASEAN-U.S. Cooperation on Disaster Management Inception Workshop

From May 4-5 2004, the ASEAN-U.S. Cooperation on Disaster Management Inception Workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand. The aim of this workshop was to discuss the

introduction of the American incident command system (ICS) to the ASEAN countries, and Brunei, the Philippines and Vietnam were selected to introduce the ICS system as pilot countries.

2) ASEAN Regional Programme on Disaster Management

“Launching of the ASEAN Regional Programme on Disaster Management” was held on May 26-27, 2004 in Bali, Indonesia, gathering about 60 participants including each representatives from 10 countries of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, the ASEAN Secretariat, UNHCR Jakarta, the UN/OCHA, the DIPECHO, the ASEAN Foundation, the ADPC, and the ADRC.

The meeting aimed to discuss the specific measures to conduct the 5 projects which have been currently planned. The ADRC made a presentation on the background of the ADRC and TDRM.