

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.

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 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.

ADRC's Latest Disaster Information database is a key to understand how to access the information stored in the databases. 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

MENU		
English		Japanese
Professional use	Academic use	General use
DB + WWW search		
The Latest Disaster Information		
Glossary on Natural Disasters		
Training Information Database		
ADRC E-Net		
Conference and Disaster Studies		
Internet Exhibition		
Disaster Information of Member Countries		
ADRC Highlights		
Country Report from Member Countries		
UN/ISDR		
ADRRN (Asian Disaster Reduction & Response Network)		
Archives		
The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Database		
ADIC Accident and Disaster Database		
VENTEN-Internet based GIS		
Center Information		
Links		
ADRC Events & Publications		
Visitors		
SiteMap		
E-Mail to ADRC		

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

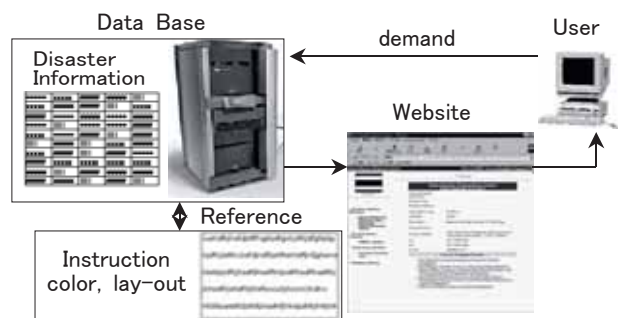


Fig.2-5-1-2 Linked Database-driven

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.

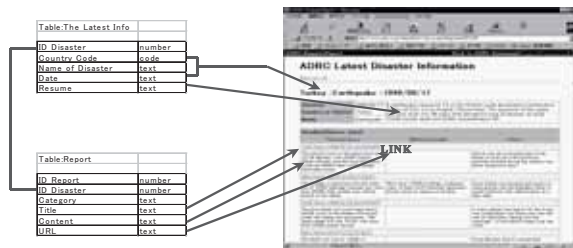


Fig.2-5-1-3 Latest Disaster Information and Window Layout

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).

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 Fig.2-5-1-6).

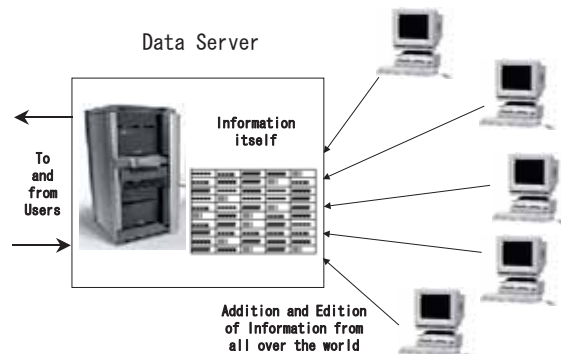


Fig.2-5-1-4 Remote Updating over the Internet

Fig.2-5-1-5 Entry Page

Fig.2-5-1-6 top page of the web

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.

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 950 disasters in the world as of the end of March 2006.



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

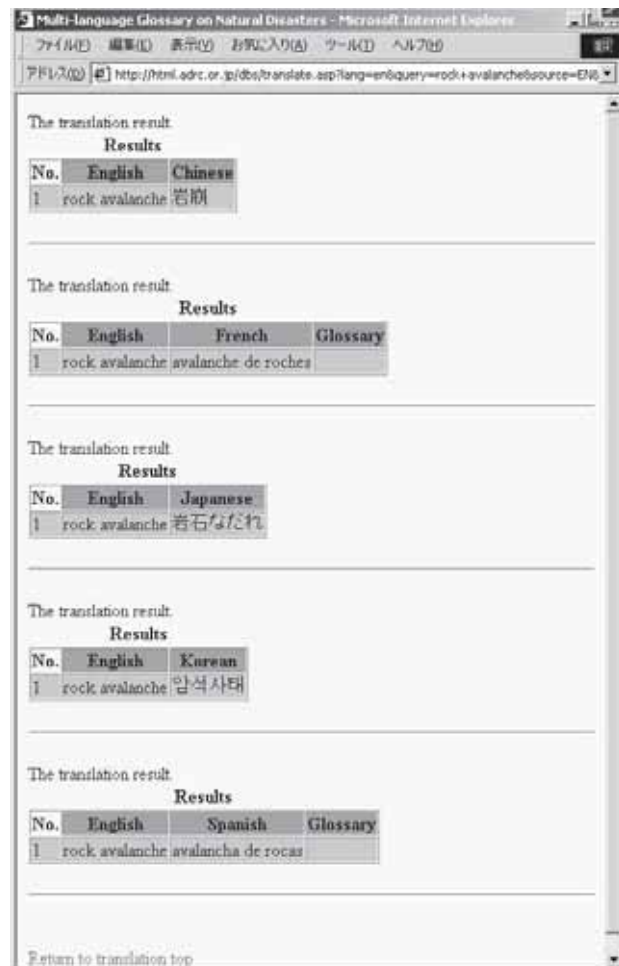


Fig.2-5-3-2 Translation into 5 languages

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 630, 1768 and 114, 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 staffs 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.

Table2-5-4 Headlines from ADRC Highlights (FY 2005)

Vol.	IssueDate	Main Feature	Other Topics
113	4/1	Survey Mission to Tsunami-Affected Areas in India	Mission on Establishing a Tsunami Early Warning Mechanism in the Indian Ocean held Recent Natural Disasters in Asia: Earthquake in Indonesia Announcement
114	4/16	Public Forum on Recovery to be held on 12 May 2005 in Kobe	32nd session of WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones was held in New Delhi, India, 21-26 February 2005 JICA Regional Seminar on Tsunami Early Warning System
115	5/1	Public Symposium on Recovery to be held on 12 May 2005 in Kobe	ADRC conducted Field Survey on Awareness of Disaster Risk in southern Sri Lanka
116	5/16	International Seminar on Post-Disaster Recovery Drew to a Successful Close	
117	6/1	Japanese Government Dispatches Survey Team to the Tsunami Affected Countries	The Regional Workshop on Effective Tropical Cyclone Warning was held in Shanghai, China
118	6/16	Multinational Survey Mission to Tsunami-Affected Areas in India	The 11th Meeting of IATF/DR held in Geneva on 24-26 May
119	7/1	ADRC Collaboration with China	Recent Natural Disasters in Asia: Floods in China
120	7/16	Workshop on the Role of Broadcaster held in Bangkok on 13-16 June	ADRC Staff Profiles No.19-Mr. Koichi Nagano, Administrative Manager Recent Natural Disasters in Asia: Floods in India
121	8/1	ADRC welcomes Pakistan as a New Member	ADRC exchanged an MoU with WMO ADRC participated in the National Assessment Mission conducted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (UNESCO/IOC) WCDR follow-up event held at ECOSOC, UN Headquarters New Visiting Researchers at ADRC
122	8/16	Recent Natural Disasters in Asia: Floods and Landslides in India	ADRC Staff Profiles No.20: Mr. Masahiko Murata, Senior Expert Introduction of the CD-ROM (Tsunami Version) of “Exploration for Disaster Prevention” Program

Vol.	IssueDate	Main Feature	Other Topics
123	9/1	Study Tour on Tsunami Warning System was held in Japan and the US	Workshop of Asian Disaster Reduction and Relief Network (ADRRN) held in Chennai, India
124	9/16	ADRC Dispatched EWS Assessment Team to the Maldives	ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report - Ms. Maria Limpahan Go from the Philippines
125	10/1	Publication of Tsunami awareness booklets in 8 countries in Asia	ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report - Ms. Dilor Mirova from Republic of Tajikistan
126	10/16	ADRC participated in the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction in Beijing, China	Recent Natural Disasters in Asia: Earthquake in northern Pakistan Situation Report; Typhoon in Viet Nam - Contributed Article by ADRC former VR Mr. Nguyen Thanh Phuong Announcement
127	11/1	Disaster Management Training Course for Central Asia and the Caucasus	ADRC Staff Profiles No.21 - Mr. Akira Yamamoto, Senior Researcher
128	11/16	Report on the South Asia Earthquake - IRP Secretariat joined a survey team to Pakistan	ADRC participated in the ICIMOD's workshop on flash flood management in the Himalayas ADRC was invited to the National Inter Agency Consultation in Mongolia
129	12/1	2nd Report on the South Asia Earthquake - ADRC joined JICA Needs Assessment Team	Regional Workshop for Central Asia and Russia was held in Astana, Kazakhstan ADRC Staff Profiles (No.22) - Mr. Takaaki Shiratori, Senior Researcher
130	12/16	The 12th Meeting of IATF/DR held in Geneva on 22-23 November	38th Session of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee held in Hanoi, Vietnam The 2nd Public Symposium on Post Disaster Recovery will be held on 19 January 2006
131	1/16	Public Symposium on Post Disaster Recovery to be held on 19 Jan 2006 in Kobe - Lessons on recovery from recent disasters	Asia-Pacific Core Member Meeting on Disaster Reduction Technology List International Conference: 250th Anniversary of the 1755 Lisbon Earthquake held in Portugal ADRC Staff Profiles (No.23) - Mr. Hajime Nakano, Senior Researcher
132	2/1	Public Symposium on Post Disaster Recovery expected IRP activities	ADRC was invited to Workshop organized by Denmark and UN/ISDR Recent Natural Disasters in Asia: Cold wave in Russia
133	2/16	ADRC started Tsunami Disaster Education Project in Thailand	IRP Secretariat Welcomes a New Official - Mr. Anil K. Sinha, Programme Advisor
134	3/1	Cooperative Project with the Kyrgyz Republic - Seminars on Capacity Building of the Population held in Bishkek and Osh	The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2006 will be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea Recent Natural Disasters in Asia: Mudslide in the Philippines
135	3/16	JICA Regional Seminar on Tsunami Early Warning System drew to a successful close	ADRC Staff Profile No.24 - Mr. Makoto IKEDA, Researcher World Bank Institute's On-Line Training of Trainers on DRM conducted - Ms. Maria Matilde Limpahan Go, ADRC Former VR