

## 7. Pakistan Earthquake (South Asian Earthquake)

A catastrophic magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck mainly the northern part of Pakistan on October 8, 2005. The combined death toll of the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Pakistan-controlled Azad Jamu Kashmir (AJK) exceeded 70,000. The damage from the earthquake extended to India and Afghanistan.

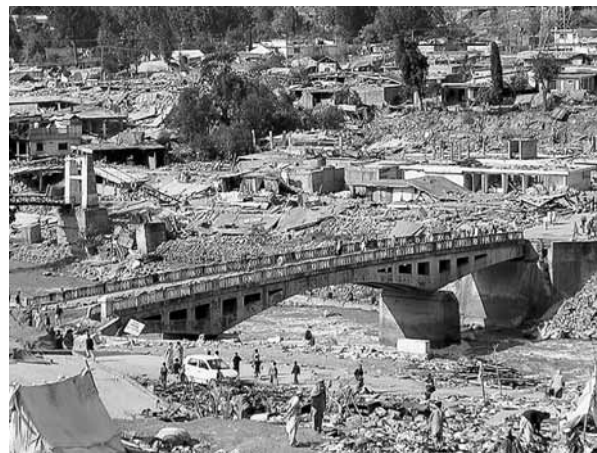
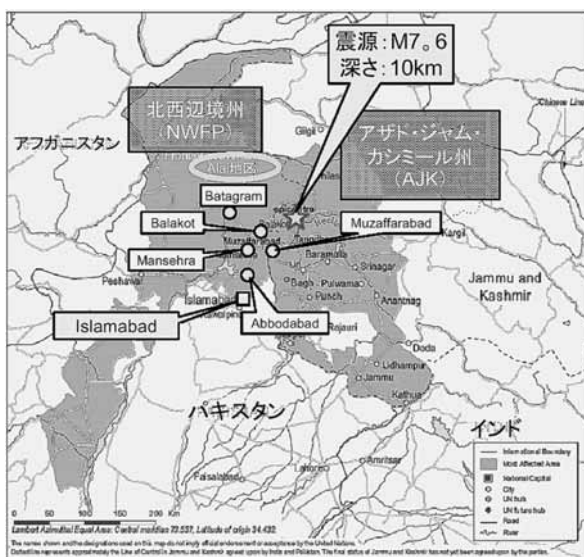
In response to the Pakistan government's request for help after the occurrence of the earthquake, the UN/OCHA acted immediately and issued a flash appeal for urgent humanitarian and financial assistance (total amount of approximately \$550 million) to support the affected populations.

Under the initiative of the UNDP, the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) opened the Geneva and Islamabad Offices of the Working Group on Early Recovery (WGER). The Working Group provided the framework for the UN-joint needs assessment mission for early recovery, to which the IRP Secretariat dispatched Mr. Murata, recovery expert.

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center also dispatched its researcher, Mr. Nakamura, to the recovery and reconstruction project formulation survey conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

### 7-1. Overview of the Earthquake

- Magnitude: 7.6 (epicenter depth: approx. 26 km (source: USGS))
  - Epicenter: Latitude 34.493° north and longitude 73.629° east (approx. 90 km NNE of Islamabad)
  - Time of occurrence: 8:50 AM (local time), Oct. 8 (Sat), 2005
- This happened to be the time in a day during which children left home for school, women started working indoors, and men started working in fields (or left home for work outside the region). This coincidence resulted in a high death toll among women and children.
- Deaths: 73,331, Wounded: 128,288 (as of Dec. 5 (Source: Pakistan Government))
  - Primary affected areas: North West Frontier Province (NWFP: 5 regions), Azad Jamu Kashmir (AJK: 3 regions)
  - Geomorphic characteristics: The mountain areas in northern Pakistan were formed by the subduction of the Indian Plate beneath the Eurasian Plate in the north at an annual rate of 40 mm (USGS). This earthquake-prone belt consists of mountain ranges including one of the world's highest ridges. The belt is also known for the May 1935 Quetta earthquake, which



killed approximately 60,000. The latest earthquake was caused by active fault movements.

- Damage characteristics: Landslides disrupted transportation and isolated many of severely damaged towns and villages at high altitudes. This delayed the determination of the extent of the damage, and hence the delivery of emergency assistance. Serious damages to public facilities including schools resulted in a high proportion of children among the casualties. Following the arrival of a severe snowy winter, urgent delivery of thermal tents and shelters was a pressing issue.