

## **2-4. Information on Disaster Management Systems**

### **2-4-1. Scope of Information**

Included among major components of disaster management system are legal system, organizations, basic plans, and disaster manuals.

**(1) Legal frameworks**

Not all countries have national laws comparable to Japan's "Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act". Backgrounds and processes of formulation of laws and regulation vary from country to country, and there is no single "Best way" for all countries. Still, shared information on disaster legislation of different countries will provide a useful reference on countries that are making efforts to establish similar legal frameworks or improve their current frameworks.

**(2) Organizations**

Similarly to the case of legal frameworks, disaster reduction agencies vary from country to country. These organizations are often restructured while the fundamental legal framework for disaster reduction remains unchanged. Differences among countries in natural environmental conditions and socio-cultural background do not reduce the significance of studying organizational systems of other countries, in that disaster reduction is a purpose common to all countries. Knowledge of the roles and command chains of organizations of other countries is also important to facilitate international collaboration for disaster reduction.

**(3) Basic plans**

Many of member countries are yet to strategically strengthen their disaster preparedness according to comprehensive disaster reduction plans. Open and shared information on disaster reduction plans of other countries will provide good reference materials for countries planning to formulate or revise their disaster reduction plans. Feedback and reviews that these countries would give will be useful in promoting multinational disaster reduction collaboration.

**(4) Disaster manuals**

It is considered that most of disaster manuals or hazard maps are compiled based on natural disasters experienced by each country or region, or on the type of natural disaster specific to that country or region. However, inaccessibility to such manuals and hazard maps make it difficult for countries and regions having suffered same kinds of disasters to share experiences and information on countermeasures, and might cause inconveniences in the actual implementation of international, regional-national, or inter-regional cooperation. Given this, ADRC is committed to collecting information in order to enable the sharing of these existing disaster manuals and hazard maps. Waves of urbanization and globalization continue increasing the pace of changes, and ADRC will continue its effort for the Asian region to share valuable experiences, knowledge, and views of disaster management measures that have been accumulated in different countries and regions.

### **2-4-2. Levels of Information Sources**

It is important to collect information not only at the national government level but also at the local government (city, town and village) and community levels, because the first to cope with a disaster are individuals, and then local communities and municipal governments (cities, towns or villages). Central governments or the international society moves only when the disaster exceeds the capabilities of local governments. Legal and organizational frameworks established by a central government alone do not automatically improve actual disaster reduction capabilities and preparedness down to the municipal and grassroot levels. To build a disaster-resistant society, cross-organizational cooperation is indispensable. Sharing of information at all levels is the first step to this goal.

---

### 2-4-3. Methods of Collecting Information

In 2006, ADRC continued its effort to gather information on the disaster reduction systems of member countries through requests to them, field surveys, and international conferences, and by its own unique methods using the Internet.

Table 2-4-3-1 lists reports provided by counterparts in member countries. All these reports are available on the ADRC website. Over recent years, disaster reduction organizations of many countries have been actively promoting information dissemination over the Internet. Therefore, the ADRC website has links to some of these websites, when it is more efficient to have access to them for the latest information than to view the reports on the ADRC website.

Table. 2-4-3 List of reports from ADRC member countries

No.	Country	Year prepared
1	Armenia	2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006
2	Bangladesh	1998, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006
3	Cambodia	1998, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006
4	China	1998, 1999, 2005, 2006
5	India	1998, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2006
6	Indonesia	1998, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
7	Japan	1998, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2006
8	Kazakhstan	1998, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2006
9	Korea	1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006
10	Kyrgyzstan	2005, 2006
11	Laos	1998, 1999, 2003, 2005, 2006
12	Malaysia	1998, 1999, 2003, 2005, 2006
13	Mongolia	1998, 1999, 2002, 2005
14	Myanmar	2002, 2005, 2006
15	Nepal	1998, 1999, 2005, 2006
16	Pakistan	2005, 2006
17	Papua New Guinea	1998, 1999, 2005, 2006
18	The Philippines	1998, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006
19	Russia	1998, 1999, 2003, 2005, 2006
20	Singapore	1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006
21	Sri Lanka	1998, 1999, 2003, 2005, 2006
22	Tajikistan	1998, 1999, 2003, 2005, 2006
23	Thailand	1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
24	Uzbekistan	1998, 1999, 2005, 2006
25	Vietnam	1998, 1999, 2005, 2006

## **2-4-4. Publication of "ADRC Member Countries Profiles"**

### **(1) Background/Purpose**

The UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) held in January 2005 adopted the "Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA) - Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters." The framework determined to provide priority items for ten years to persons related to disaster-prevention administration who are involved in reduction of disaster risks.

Following such decision, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) is involved in activities to grasp/confirm the progress status of HFA in respective governments of all 25 member countries and is compiling/preparing a collection book which lists information of the countries concerning disaster reduction administration.

### **(2) Features**

- 1) The pamphlet covers information on disaster reduction administration of all 25 member countries of ADRC including a new member country Pakistan. Further, the latest information after WCDR is held is obtained for compilation from counterparts of ADRC in respective countries.
- 2) Although the "Country Information" that was submitted by some ADRC member countries in the past is disclosed on the ADRC home page. However, there was a problem that the Information was not easy to read since content, volume and specifications are not unified among the countries. This time, therefore, the pamphlet itself is designed to be handy, and data of respective countries are arranged to be compact in 6 to 8 pages so that users can easily view information related to disaster reduction on respective countries.
- 3) Information such as "budget amount related to disaster reduction", "progress status of HFA" and "disaster reduction projects lead by the government" that was not available in the past is included.

### **(3) Estimated Publication June 2007**

\* The pamphlet is scheduled to be published in time with the "Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2007" to be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

### **(4) Number of copies printed: 500 copies in English**

### **(5) Contents**

- (1) Status of disaster occurrence, recent catastrophic disasters;
- (2) Disaster reduction systems (Organizational chart of administration, system of law, etc.);
- (3) Disaster reduction plans
- (4) Budgets related to disaster prevention
- (5) Progress status of HFA
- (6) Introduction of disaster reduction projects lead by government agencies responsible for disaster reduction
- (7) Names of government agencies/departments of ADRC counter parts

## **2-4-5. Future Tasks**

ADRC will further reinforce and expand its database, analyze collected information, and identify needs of the member countries based on such analyses in order to promote multinational disaster reduction cooperation.

### **(1) Reinforcement and expansion of the disaster reduction database**

ADRC constructed a database on its homepage to give free access to disaster reduction system information it collects for member countries to share. The database enables countries and

---

regions to refer to actual examples from other countries to establish and improve their own national or regional disaster reduction systems. The ADRC will continue updating and enhancing the contents of its disaster reduction database in cooperation with member countries to make the database more accessible and user-friendly.

**(2) Analysis of information and dealing with the needs of countries**

Information becomes useful only when referred to for analyses. Analysis of collected information is beginning to help clarify the specific circumstances and needs of various countries. Some countries already have national level disaster reduction systems, while others are currently preparing to establish disaster reduction systems under the initiative of central governments. It is considered that the former group of countries need to add improvements to enhance and reinforce their existing systems, while the latter group should give priority to the establishment of disaster reduction systems as part of intra-regional cooperation.

In order to reduce Asia's vulnerability to natural disasters, it is essential for countries in the region to consider and include disaster reduction measures in their long-term basic national plans. The prerequisite for this to happen is that the central government as well as citizenry must have a higher disaster reduction awareness. For a society to give equal weight to post-disaster emergency assistance and to disaster preventive preparations, it is always necessary for lawmakers, policymakers and planners to properly include and incorporate disaster reduction considerations into basic national and regional plans.

**(3) Promotion of cooperation**

Having seen the ACDR, it is important to hold regular meetings of disaster reduction administrators and specialists from member countries to exchange the latest information on disaster reduction systems and disaster management measures. It is also important for the ADRC to continue making full use of its visiting researcher program launched in July 1999 so that researchers from the member countries working as its staff will help to promote active personnel and information exchanges in the Asian region. In addition, to reduce damages caused by natural disasters in Asia, there is a mounting expectation that the ADRC should serve as a facilitator in the formation of a network for human, technological, and physical resources in Japan and the other Asian countries to further promote exchanges in the region.