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/) and Sentinel Asia Project Disaster Management Support System (URL http://arrs.adrc.or.jp/adrc/MyMap/adrc/index.jsp): Latest Disaster Information, Multilingual 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://glidenumber.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.
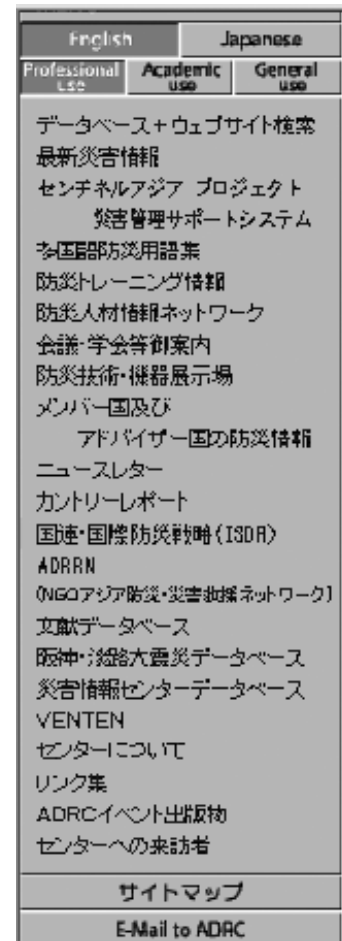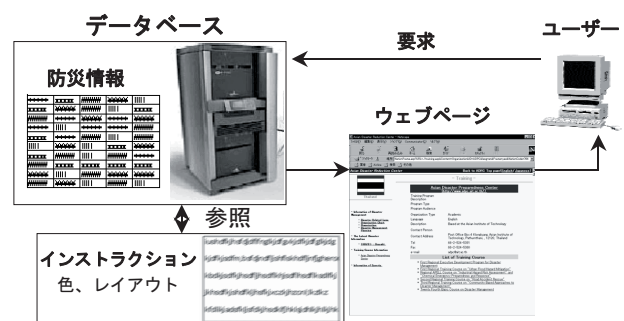

Fig.2-5-1-1 ADRC HP Menu

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

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 swpt the Indian Ocean, this ADRC site had 100,000 access requests per hour via the direct link on Yahoo News Portal.
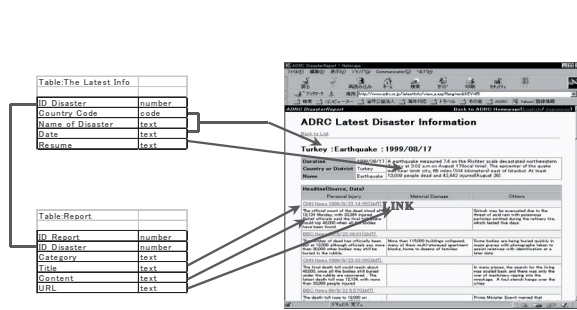

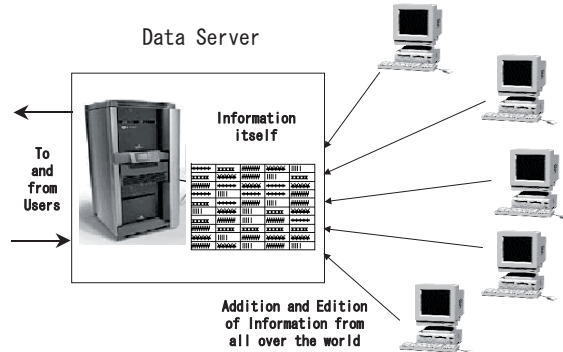Fig. 2-5-1-3 Latest Disaster Information and Window Layout

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

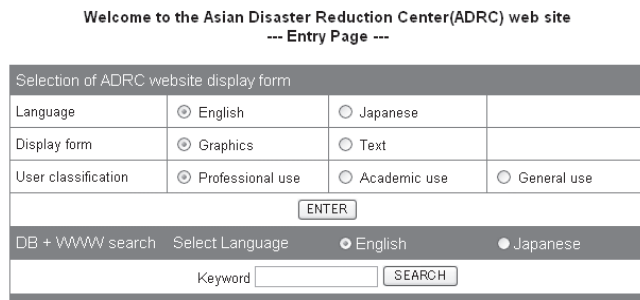(4) a platform that allows the user to select the options

Fig. 2-5-1-5 Entry Page

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 map[1] 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. 2-5-1-6 Top page of the web

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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 1,042 disasters in the world as of the end of March 2007.

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.
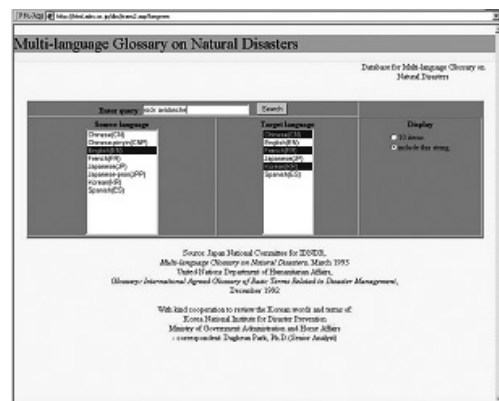

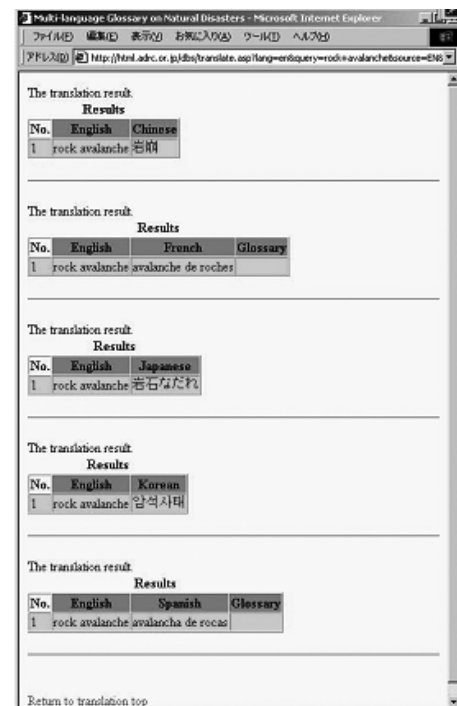Fig. 2-5-3-1   Multilanguage Glossary on Natural Disaster

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, Russian 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 781, 1972 and 152, 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.

Table 2-5-4 Headlines from ADRC Highlights (From April 2006 to March 2007)

Vol.	IssueDate	Main Feature	Other Topics
136	Apr. 1	The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2006 was Concluded Successfully	
137	Apr. 16	ADRC has a New Executive Director	ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report -Ms. Lyudmila Harutyunyan, ArmeniaJICA Seminar on Disaster Management 2005
138	May 1	Greetings from Executive Director of ADRC, Mr. Koji Suzuki	Third International Conference on Early Warning (EWC-III) held in BonnACDR 2006 documents are now on the web
139	May 16	ADRC Cooperative Project 2005: International Urban Search and Rescue Training Course	ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report -Mr. G. M. Janaka K. Gunawardena from Sri LankaThe 3rd Public Symposium on Post Disaster Recovery will be held on 30 May 2006
140	Jun. 1	Tsunami Disaster Education Project in Thailand	Dr. Pujiono Taking Leadership of UN/OCHA KobeIRP Secretariat Joined Landslide Investigation Team in the Southern Leyte
141	Jun. 16	Project for Promoting Community-Based Disaster Reduction in Sri Lanka	ADRC Staff Profiles No. 24 -Mr. Kiyoshi KAYASHIMA, Researcher of IRPRecent Natural Disasters in Asia: Earthquake in Java, IndonesiaAnnouncement
142	Jul. 1	ADRC Dispatch Assessment Team to Java	3rd Public Symposium on Post-DisasterRecoveryADRC Staff Profile No. 25 -Dr. Kenpei KOJIKA, Senior Researcher of ADRC
143	Jul. 16	ADRC Participates in the Regional Workshop on Mitigation, Preparedness and Development for Tsunami Early Warning Systems in the Indian Ocean Region	Third Regional Consultative Meeting for Central Asia was held in Kyrgyz RepublicUN Sasakawa Award for Disaster ReductionADRC Member Country Report
144	Aug. 1	Tsunami Awareness Workshops Using "Inamura no Hi" in India, Indonesia and Bangladesh	ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report -Mr. Sang Hyeok Kang, Republic of Korea
145	Aug. 16	ADRC Participates in National Assessment Mission to Yemen Led by UNESCO/IOC	ADRRN Regional Workshop Held in BangkokGlobal Disaster Reduction Education Campaign 2006-2007

Vol.	IssueDate	Main Feature	Other Topics
146	Sep.1	Japan-SAARC Symposium held in Dhaka, Bangladesh	The ADRC Dispatches a Survey Team for the South Java Tsunami
147	Sep. 16	Public Forum "Winning against disasters - Roles of Education, Development and Community Action for Sustainable Development" will be held on 19 October	ADRC Staff Profile No. 26 - Mr. Hiroyuki WATABE, Senior Researcher
148	Oct. 1	Public Forum "Winning Against Disasters - Roles of Education, Development and Community Action for Sustainable Development" is around the corner	JICA's Trainer's training for the Disaster Mitigation Training ProjectRecent Natural Disasters in Asia - Flood in Northern Lao PDR
149	Oct. 16	2006 Disaster Management Training Course for Central Asia and the Caucasus	Recent Natural Disasters in Asia --- (1)Typhoon No. 13 (Shanshan) (2) Typhoon No. 15 (Xangsane)
150	Nov. 1	Study Tour of Disaster Hazard Mitigation Project for Kyrgyz Republic	Public Forum "Winning Against Disasters" held at UNU, Tokyo on 19 October 2006
151	Nov. 16	JICA's Training for Top Officials of Turkish Municipalities	ADRC's New Publication: Natural Disasters Data Book 2005Recent Natural Disasters in Asia -Record Tornado in Hokkaido, Japan
152	Dec. 1	JAXA and ADRC Announce Launch of "Sentinel Asia"	Introduction of Mr. Ryo Saito, Asia Air Survey Co., Ltd.International Forum on Tsunamis and Earthquakes will be held on 15-16 January 2007 in Kobe, Hyogo
153	Dec. 16	JICA Training Course "Disaster Prevention Education in Schools"	International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake to be held on 15-16 January 2007 in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan
154	Jan. 16	Happy New Year 2007	ADRC's Cooperative Project with the Philippines: Seminar for the Development of the GLIDE-Associated Disaster Database
155	Feb. 1	ADRC's Cooperative Project with Armenia	Disaster Education Project in Galle, Sri Lanka
156	Feb. 16	39th Session of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee held in Manila, Philippines	ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report -Ms. Altanchimeg Shaazan from Mongolia
157	Mar. 1	The International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan on 15-16 January 2007	Announcement: Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction2007 in Kazakhstan
158	Mar. 16	International Conference "Albatross 20 07" held in Batumi, Georgia	ADRC Visiting Researcher Report -Mr. Arun Pinta, Thailand