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## **4-3. Collaboration with International Organizations**

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

### **4-3-1. Collaboration with UN/ISDR**

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.

#### **4-3-1-1. 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 World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction was held in Yokohama in May 1994 as a mid-term review of the IDNDR, adopting the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action as future guidelines for effective disaster reduction.

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.

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 ISDR, since the time of its establishment till the end of 2005, was composed of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Disaster Reduction and the Inter-Agency Secretariat to effectively implement disaster reduction activities worldwide.

The IATF consisted of members from various stakeholders, providing guidance to the ISDR Secretariat and ensuring the coordination and implementation of the decisions of the IATF, in cooperation with the ISDR Secretariat. The ADRC became a member of the IATF as a regional representative in April 2002 and actively participate in its activities including those of the Working Groups: WG2 on Early Warning, WG3 on Risk, Vulnerability and Impact Assessment, and WG to prepare for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction. Since the 12th meeting of the IATF held in November 2005, ADRC has been participating in the activities of the cluster groups on Education on Disaster Reduction and on Environment and Disaster Reduction.

168 governments gathered in Kobe in January 2005 at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) and adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. The HFA layed out a detailed guideline for the countries and communities to reduce the risk and vulnerability to disasters and to make risk reduction an essential component of development.

Strengthening of the ISDR system has become necessary to respond to current disaster trends and to support nations and communities to implement the HFA. After an extensive consultation with ISDR partners and national organizations, a new system consisting of three main mechanisms, 1. Management Oversight Board, 2. Global Platform (extended Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction), and 3. Programme Advisory Committee, was proposed. The new system will be launched at the first session of the Global Platform meeting to be held on 5-7 June 2007 in Geneva.

One of the milestone events the ADRC organized during the fiscal year 2006 towards the achievement of the HFA goals in Japan was the public forum "Winning against Disasters" held on October 19, 2006 at the United Nations University in Tokyo, co-organized by UNU, Cabinet Office of Japan, UN/ISDR, UNESCO, and the World Bank. The Forum addressed the roles of education, development and community action for sustainable development.

The World Bank's new global partnership for vulnerability reduction, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) is supporting joint efforts of the United Nations/International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the World Bank to foster PPPs at all levels, particularly in countries prone to multiple disaster risks. Identifying opportunities and incentives for such partnerships, learning from past experiences and exchange of good practices in such partnerships are some of the initial steps that can provide a basis for risk reduction dialogues among the key stakeholders.

#### **4-3-2. Collaboration with UN/OCHA**

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.

During the fiscal year 2006 OCHA Kobe and ADRC jointly carried out various activities, among others, the Third Public Symposium on Post Disaster Recovery, the International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake, as well as other activities of the International Recovery Platform (IRP), and the activities in the context of ADRRN.

The OCHA/ReliefWeb is an internet-based clearinghouse operated by OCHA collecting and disseminating reliable disaster information in a timely manner to support the global humanitarian actions. The ADRC has not only created a link to the ReliefWeb on its homepage for easy reference, it collaborates with the ReliefWeb for the promotion of the GLobal unique disaster IDentifier number (GLIDE) initiative.

#### **4-3-3. 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 in the fiscal year 2006.

##### **4-3-3-1. Public Forum "Winning against Disasters"**

The UNU and ADRC co-organized a Public Forum titled "Winning against Disasters - Roles of Education, Development and Community Action for Sustainable Development" with the Cabinet Office of Japan, UN/ISDR, UNESCO and the World Bank at the UNU in Tokyo on October 19, 2006.

##### **4-3-3-2. Expert Working Group Meeting on Measuring Vulnerability**

The ADRC participated in the Third Expert Working Group Meeting on "Measuring Vulnerability - vulnerabilities, coping and adaptation: How to assess them at different scales before and after disasters?" organized by the Institute for Environment & Human Security, United Nations University (UNU-EHS) on October 30 - November 1, 2006 in Prato, Italy. The Meeting aimed to study various methods and indicators for measuring vulnerability to disasters, share information and research findings about disaster vulnerabilities and impacts, and to seek ways to ensure the incorporation of knowledge about vulnerabilities and risks into disaster preparedness and sustainable reconstruction.



Fig. 4-3-3-2 Regional Workshop “Building Capacity and Preparedness of Population to Emergencies”

#### **4-3-4. Collaboration with UNESCO**

ADRC exchanged the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in January 2005 in order to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between UNESCO and ADRC in education, science and culture, and in particular, to promote effective and efficient disaster reduction activities. The ADRC participated in the UNESCO-hosted disaster risk reduction education program held in the Philippines in 2001. Dr. Badaoui Rouhban actively participated in the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2003 and the TDRM Conference as a resource person in the fiscal year 2003.

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 supported 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.

UNESCO is the lead agency of the ISDR System Education Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. ADRC has been actively participating in the activities of the Platform and contributed to the Development of the publication “Let our children teach us! - a Review of the Role of Education and Knowledge in Disaster Risk Reduction” prepared by Dr. Ben Wisner.

##### **4-3-4-1. Assessment Survey for Building Up Early Tsunami Warning System**

The Mauritius Declaration was adopted in the Second International Coordination Meeting which was held by the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO/IOC) in April 2005. The Declaration included the resolution to implement assessment surveys as required for clarifying the present situation and problems by countries, for the countries of the Indian Ocean Rim to build up an early tsunami warning system. ADRC cooperated with the assessment survey along with the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

##### **4-3-4-2. Participation in Assessment Survey in Yemen**

In responding to the request by the Government of Yemen, UNESCO/IOC dispatched an assessment investigation team consisting of experts from related organizations from July 8 to 10, 2006, in collaboration with UN/ISDR. They participated in the survey with the main responsible subject “Awareness Raising of Residents and Community Activities concerning

Tsunami Disaster Reduction.”

The meeting started with the opening address by Vice Minister Argunido of the Ministry of Water and Environment, followed by presentations of experts from the investigation team UNESCO/IOC, UN/ISDR, U.S. National Ocean and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) and ADRC. They made comprehensive explanations on important subjects on effective tsunami warning and disaster reduction based on cases and experiences in Japan. On the second day, aiming for grasping the present situation and clarifying problems in Yemen on building up of the early tsunami warning and disaster reduction system, based on 137 questions prepared in advance, a question-and-answer session was held between the investigation team and related persons of the country.



Fig. 4-3-4-2 Assessment Survey in Yemen

#### **4-3-4-3. Preparation of Report on Maldives**

Based on the early tsunami warning system survey in Maldives that was conducted on consignment by UNDP Maldives in August 2005 as called upon by UNESCO/IOC, a comprehensive assessment survey report in which tsunami disaster reduction activities by related organizations including the Government of Maldives and UNDP that were implemented after the above-stated system survey are reflected was prepared in November 2006. After confirmation by the Government of Maldives, ADRC submitted the report to UNESCO/IOC.

#### **4-3-4-4. The Fourth Intergovernmental Conference for Indian Ocean Early Tsunami Warning System**

ADRC participated in the Fourth Intergovernmental Conference for Indian Ocean Early Tsunami Warning System which was held in Mombassa, Kenya from February 28 to March 2, 2007. For working groups divided by subjects, ADRC participated in WG6 (Working Group on Mitigation, Preparedness and Response) and reviewed future priority problems in the disaster reduction field with representatives from countries bordering the Indian Ocean.

#### **4-3-5. Collaboration with UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)**

Aiming for disaster reduction in Asia, ADRC is promoting collaboration with UN/ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific). In 2004, ADRC actively participated in activities of ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee to promote preparation of hazard maps in member countries as a tool for risk communication for the purpose of disaster reduction.



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#### **4-3-5-1. Meeting of Typhoon Committee Working Group**

On April 25 and 26, 2006, a meeting concerning disaster prevention and preparedness was held by the working group of ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee. For the purpose of reducing typhoon damages, persons respectively in charge of weather, hydrology and disaster reduction turned out in the meeting for sharing awareness on problems and approaches of mutual fields and discussing on building up of effective disaster reduction system through collaborations. ADRC made a presentation on activities of ADRC and the GLIDE numbering system.



Fig. 4-3-5-1 Meeting of Typhoon Committee Working Group

#### **4-3-5-2. Annual Session of ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee**

ADRC participated in the 38th Session of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee (TC) was held in Manila, the capital of the Philippines on 4-9 December 2006, hosted by the Government of the Philippines. About 100 persons participated in the session from UN and international organizations including the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and UN/ISDR, in addition to 14 member countries of the Typhoon Committee. The session was held aiming for verifying progress status of the on-going programs and determining activities and necessary supports to be implemented in the year 2007 and thereafter. ADRC made representations on projects ADRC implemented since 2005 to date, the total disaster risk management (TDRM) and others. In addition, regarding the GLIDE numbering system which aims for sharing a wide variety of information related to disaster, ADRC emphasized importance of disseminating the system.

#### **4-3-5-3. High-Level Workshop of ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee**

On February 13 and 14, 2007, a high-level workshop of the Typhoon Committee was held at the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau of Macau SAR. The workshop was held for the first time after the Typhoon Committee office was relocated to Macau SAR. During the convening period of the workshop, discussions on strategic plans of the Committee as well as the signing ceremony related to relocation of the office and dedication of the executive office were conducted. From Japan, the general manager of ADRC attended the meeting to report activities for carrying out the “Hyogo Framework for Action” of ADRC in Asia and expressed support to the strategic plans of the Typhoon Committee. Before closing the meeting, the Typhoon Committee presented and set forth various suggestions, including supports from the Typhoon Committee to GLIDE at which ADRC is now working, effective utilization of human resources/funds for promoting activities of the Typhoon Committee, revision of the home page, enhancement of training concerning weather forecasting and strengthening of

research works related to environment.

#### **4-3-6. Collaboration with WMO**

ADRC and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) concluded an agreement in July 2005 to build up closer ties between them. It has also been promoting enhanced cooperation with WMO through promotion to introduce the global unique disaster IDentifier number (GLIDE), activities toward building up of the Early Tsunami Warning System for the Indian Ocean and activities related to the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones as well as the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee. WMO is one of the active contributors and co-organizers of the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2006 held in March 2006.

##### **4-3-6-1. 34th Annual Convention of WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones**

From February 25 to March 1, 2007, the 34th Annual Convention of WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones was held in Male, Maldives. The Panel aims to reduce weather disasters in areas of the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. In the convention, it was emphasized that international collaborations are indispensable to reduce damages caused by tropical cyclones, atmospheric depressions and tsunami, and the Panel played a role to promote such collaborations. ADRC introduced the present situation of international collaborations in the disaster reduction fields as well as the Sentinel-Asia project and expressed that ADRC would continue to develop collaborations with countries in this area in the future.

##### **4-3-6-2. Collaboration in the GLIDE initiative**

WMO has been actively involved in the GLIDE initiative, which CRED (The Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, University of Louvain, Belgium), ReliefWeb and ADRC developed jointly 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.

#### **4-3-7. Collaboration with UNDP**

Collaborative relationship between UNDP and the ADRC has always existed in the disaster reduction field through versatile activities. ADRC was an active member of the ISDR Working Group 3 on Risk, Impact and Vulnerability Assessments. UNDP lead the activities until the end of 2004 when the WG was dissolved and they endorsed the GLIDE initiative as a tool for sharing information. Collaboration with UNDP was visibly enhanced during the preparatory phase of the International Recovery Platform (IRP) toward its establishment. UNDP was a co-host organization of the open forum concerning recovery held at the UN University in Tokyo on August 24, 2004, and officials from UNDP participated in the forum as lecturers. Thereafter, it jointly implemented many projects including collaboration in the recovery session of the world conference and co-hosting of the international recovery seminar commemorating establishment of IRP held in May 2005. UNDP is an organization leading IRP, dispatches two UNDP staff members to its office in Kobe, thus developing versatile activities.

In addition, CLIDE is positioned as a tool which plays the core role of the Global Risk Program (GRIP) of UNDP, and the GLIDE dissemination promotion project is promoted as one of the key projects of GRIP, the outline of which is as follows:

- (1) Enhancement of GLIDE System: A) Decide the operation policies by holding technical meetings; B) Review of GLIDE by experts; and C) Strengthening of Website "GLID Enumber.net" in both software and hardware aspects
- (2) Enhancement of GLIDE Data: A) Appointment of GLIDE operators throughout the world; B) Strengthening of GLIDE manuals; and C) Holding of seminars
- (3) Promotion of Dissemination of GLIDE: A) Promotion of GLIDE (development of pamphlets, updating of posters, development of videos, preparation of user guidelines); B)

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Preparation of disaster data conforming to GLIDE; C) Holding of workshops for GLIDE promoting users

As a pioneering project for disseminating and promoting GLIDE initiative, ADRC implemented a joint project for organizing disaster database conforming to GLIDE in the Philippines.