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## 3-2. JICA Disaster Management Training Course for Central Asia and the Caucasus

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), with financial support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), conducted its fifth Russian language training course on disaster management for Central Asia and the Caucasus region from 14 July to 4 August 2008. These areas are prone to natural disasters such as floods, droughts, landslides, and earthquakes, and the damage caused by such events tends to spread into neighboring countries. These countries also share common disaster risk reduction challenges, such as flooding triggered by the melting of mountain glaciers.

Ten central and local government officials in charge of disaster management came from Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to participate in this training. They visited relevant organizations and facilities, and learned about the roles that need to be played by the central and local governments, lifeline companies, research institutes, meteorological agencies, the media, hospitals, and NPOs. They also learned about GIS technologies, international disaster reduction cooperation, and disaster prevention education. Participants visited sites in the Rokko Mountains where landslide countermeasures and erosion control measures have been implemented, the Ara River Lower Reach Work Office which is responsible for river management, and the Hyogo Prefectural Emergency Management and Training Center.

This training course incorporated a “Town Watching” activity, a method of identifying the underlying risks in a community through the creation of hazard maps. Their hands-on participation in this activity enabled the trainees to better understand the effectiveness of this method in raising public awareness of disaster risk reduction.

Since 2007, our trainings have included a workshop for developing action plans using the Project Cycle Management (PCM) method. Over the course of four days, trainees learned the basics of PCM as well as how to put what they had learned into practice. The trainees were able to achieve the objectives of the workshop, and are expected to become leaders who can apply what they learned here to various disaster reduction projects in their own countries.



Fig. 3-2 A visit to a Tokyo Fire Station Training Center in Tachikawa



Fig. 3-2 Participants create a hazard map.