

2-2. Field Survey on Padang Earthquake

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) sent a team of two senior researchers, Mr. Masaru Arakida and Mr. Tetsuo Ibaraki, to Indonesia to make an immediate assessment of areas stricken by the earthquake on 30 September off Sumatra Island. The researchers visited the cities of Padang and Pariaman, and the Padang-Pariaman District of West Sumatra Province from 5 to 7 October 2009. Their primary objective was to explore how ADRC and other relevant organizations might be able to help the disaster-stricken areas recover and rebuild their communities. The following is an overview of their mission.

(1) Day 1: 5 October

The ADRC team visited the governor's house of West Sumatra Province in Padang City, where the emergency center responsible for the province was set up following the earthquake. On the way to the governor's house from Padang International Airport, the team saw many modern multi-story buildings that had collapsed, but noticed that most of the older one- and two-story buildings survived the earthquake. The contrast



Fig 2-2-1 Collapsed multi-story building

between the damaged and undamaged buildings was quite remarkable. The ADRC team joined many other international aid agencies and NGOs in sharing information and exchanging findings.

(2) Day 2: 6 October

The ADRC team met with professors at Andalas University and exchanged information about the earthquake damage. They learned that the university had been asked by the Indonesian government to assess the damage sustained by houses in the community.

The ADRC team then went to the Padan- Pariaman District, about an hour away from Padang City, and examined



Fig 2-2-2 A damaged school

some severely damaged schools and other buildings with some local government officials. The ADRC team noticed that the damaged school buildings had a relatively small number of pillars and were built with brick walls not strong enough to withstand an earthquake.

(3) Day 3: 7 October

The ADRC team visited areas where hundreds people were reported to have been killed or still missing due to landslides. The earthquake ground motion combined with rainfall seemed to aggravate the landslide hazard. On the way to those sites, the team witnessed many small communities that had been totally devastated. The situation in those mountainous areas was quite different from that of Padang City and Pariaman City. They suffered large numbers of casualties and are in urgent need of rescue and relief aid.



Fig 2-2-3 Landslide area

Upon their return to Japan, the ADRC team reported on the status of the earthquake-stricken areas to relevant organizations within Japan. The “build back better” approach would be of great importance during the recovery/rehabilitation phase in Indonesia.