
4-2. Seminars and Training Courses

4-2-1. JICA Training Course “Dissemination and Establishment of Disaster Prevention Culture for Asian Countries”

From 17 January to 18 February 2011, the ADRC, in collaboration with JICA, conducted a JICA training course on the Dissemination and Establishment of a Disaster Prevention Culture for Asian Countries for government officials in Asian countries. Six government officials in charge of disaster risk reduction, representing the countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Fiji, Bangladesh, Thailand and Viet Nam, took part in the training. The primary objective of the training was to establish concrete disaster reduction measures tailored to each participant’s country, utilizing knowledge and methods gained through the training.

During the training, participants learned the roles and activities of the various relevant organizations such as local authorities, academic organizations, the Japan Meteorological Agency, mass media, and NPOs, while attending lectures and occasionally visiting related facilities and organizations. The training included the following specific activities: (1) town watching and hazard map creation activity, in which the trainees explored a certain area of downtown, identified risks, and came up with solutions, (2) a visit to Unzen Hugendake Volcano to learn about volcanic disaster mitigation measures, and (3) lectures on the formation of action plans, during which the trainees developed their own action plans. The trainees are expected not only to carry out their action plans but also to apply the knowledge and methods they learned during their training so as to disseminate and establish the significance of disaster risk reduction measures.



Fig.4-2-1-1 Visit to NHK



Fig.4-2-1-2 Town-watching activity

4-2-2. JICA Training Course “Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management”

From 17 January to 25 February 2011, the ADRC, in collaboration with JICA, conducted a JICA training course on the Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Course for government officials in 12 countries. Eighteen government officials in charge of disaster risk reduction took part in the training. This course aimed to help participants formulate and further develop disaster management plans in their own countries based on the concept of total disaster risk management, by enhancing their understanding of the disaster management systems adopted by the central and local governments of Japan.

During the training, participants attended a series of lectures on such topics as the Japanese disaster management system at the central and local levels, Japanese measures against flooding, sediment disasters, and earthquakes, school disaster risk reduction, community-based disaster risk management, the role of the media in disaster risk reduction, lifelines and natural disasters, and business continuity planning. In addition, they were able to establish friendly relations with officials, community members, and students over the course of their program.

These experiences provided an invaluable opportunity for the participants to understand how Japanese government agencies, NGOs, and private sector institutions are promoting disaster risk reduction in Japan. The trainees were excited to utilize what they learned in Japan to contribute to efforts aimed at promoting disaster risk reduction in their respective countries.



Fig.4-2-2-1 Lecture at Osaka Gas

4-2-3. JICA Disaster Management Training Course for Central Asia and the Caucasus

The ADRC, in collaboration with JICA, conducted a training course on its sixth Russian language training course on disaster management for Central Asia and the Caucasus region from 5 July to 6 August 2010. 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.

Eight central and local government officials in charge of disaster management came from Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, 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 Shikoku Mountains, where landslide countermeasures and erosion control measures have been implemented, and the Hyogo Prefectural Emergency Management and Training Center.

This training course incorporated a “Town Watching” activity, the method of identifying 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.4-2-3-1 A visit to Cabinet Office to learn Japan's Disaster Risk Management System



Fig.4-2-3-2 Participation in the Community-based hazard mapping program

4-2-4. JICA Training /Earthquake Disaster Management Course for China

The ADRC, in collaboration with JICA, conducted a training course on "Earthquake Disaster Management for China" from 30th August to 17th September 2010. The objective of the program was to help participants understand Japanese disaster management processes that are utilized before, during, and after an earthquake. This program was designed for acquiring enough skills to conduct making effective urban disaster prevention plan as well as recognizing an overview of disaster prevention methods in Japan.

In this year, this training course focused not only the technology of earthquake-resistant construction, but also regional disaster prevention plan. According to this arrangement, trainees could learn multi-level disaster prevention plan (National, Prefectural, and Municipal). In addition, they were most interested in learning at Three-Dimensional Full-Scale Earthquake Testing Facility (E-Defense).

In order to further understanding lectures and field visits, follow-up meetings were held every evening. At the meeting, ADRC made additional explanation for the trainees' questions.



Fig.4-2-4-1 Earthquake- resistance School promotion (by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)



Fig.4-2-4-2 Damaged water pipes (Kobe city)

At the beginning of the training course, the participants learned general information about Japanese history, culture, and customs in order to understand earthquake disaster prevention roles, acts, methods, and regulations from many perspectives. Each trainee then learned about national level and regional level disaster prevention plan of governments and disaster prevention measures of utilities, mass media, research institutes, and private sectors.

The participants then made visits to enlightening facilities such as the Disaster

Reduction Museum in Kobe and research facilities such as E-Defense in Miki city, Hyogo Prefecture. They also attended lectures on the damage estimation methods and visited local municipalities where massive disasters struck in the past to learn how each region was able to reconstruct from the past disaster.

At the end of the training course, the participants attended a workshop for developing action plans, and presented proposals for disaster countermeasures tailored to the particular characteristics of their own regions. At the workshop, they also evaluated their action plans with each other.

It is highly hoped that the participants of this course will take advantage of what they have learned by playing a leading role in the development of their own regions in China to disseminate earthquake-resistant construction technology and knowledge.