

Report on the International Forum on Recovery and Reconstruction of Yingxiu

The International Forum on Recovery and Reconstruction of Yingxiu, organized by Sichuan Provincial Construction Department, Guangdong Provincial Construction Department, Government of Aba Prefecture and China Academy of Building Research, was held in Chengdu, China, from 7 to 9 April, 2009. Three participants, headed by Mr. Suzuki, Executive Directive, from Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), one of the co-organizer, attended the forum.



In the opening ceremony speech, Mr. Suzuki pointed out that the technology, experience and lessons on earthquake disaster reduction of Japan could be utilized for the recovery and reconstruction of the Wenchuan earthquake and ADRC has prepared for the exchange of the experience as a gateway. It is emphasized as well that the disaster reduction needs not only the advanced technology but also the awareness of the public and strengthening of disaster risk management capacity of local government and community.



A total of about 250 participants from China, Japan, Italy, Germany, Canada and New Zealand including the experts and the local government officials of earthquake affected area, attended the forum. The participants, at first, visited Yingxiu town, the epicenter of the Wenchuan earthquake occurred on 12 May 2009, to have a look at the damages of the town and the progress of the recovery and, then was divided into 3 groups, ie. planning, earthquake prevention and disaster reduction and buildings and ecological



environment, for presentation and discussion. ADRC made two presentations entitled “lessons learned from Hanshin-Awaji great earthquake: strengthening community disaster risk management capacity”, and “introduction of the seismic retrofitting policy and technology of Japan for the recovery of Wenchuan earthquake”.

Through the forum, ADRC has communicated and formed a network with the local disaster related organizations and institutions. This is considered as the important first step for the implementation of the project of strengthening the capacity for local government and community on disaster risk management in the earthquake affected area proposed by ADRC, as well as the construction of a reconstruction assistant system promoted by Niigata Prefecture and Nagaoka City of Japan.