

Mission to Padang and Pariaman, West Sumatra, Indonesia

ADRC sent a team of two senior researchers to Indonesia to make an immediate assessment of areas stricken by the earthquake of 30th September off Sumatra Island. Mr. Masaru Arakida and Mr. Tetsuo Ibaraki, both from ADRC, visited Padang City, Pariaman City, Padang-Pariaman District of West Sumatra Province from 5 to 7 October 2009. Their primary objective was to explore how ADRC and other relevant organization could help disaster stricken areas recover and rebuild their communities based on their assessment. The following is a snapshot of the mission.

Day 1, 5th October

The ADRC team visited the Governor's House of West Sumatra Province in Padang City where the emergency center responsible for the whole province was set up in the wake of the earthquake. On the way to the Governor's House from the Padang International Airport, many collapsed multi-stories modern buildings were identified in different places but most of one- or two-stories old buildings sustained the earthquake. This contrast between those buildings damaged and those undamaged was indeed remarkable. On their approval, the ADRC team joined many other international aid agencies and NGOs to share information and exchanged their findings.



Collapsed Multi-Story Buildings



Governor's House

Day 2, 6th October

The ADRC team met professors of Andalas University and exchanged information on earthquake damages. The ADRC team was informed by them that Andras University had been requested by Indonesian Government to make assessment of damaged community houses. Then, the ADRC team moved to Padan-Pariaman District, about an hour away from Padang City, and examined severely damaged schools and other buildings accompanied by some local government officials. The ADRC team identified

that those damaged school buildings had relatively small number of pillars and brick walls not strong enough to sustain the earthquake.



Hearing in University



Damaged School



Brick Wall

Day 3, 7th Oct.

The ADRC team visited areas where hundreds people were reported to be killed or missing due to landslides. Earthquake ground motion combined with rainfall seemed to aggravate the situation. On the way to those sites, the team witnessed many small

communities were totally devastated. The situation in those mountainous areas was quite different from those of Padang City and Pariaman City since the number of casualties was very high and rescue/relief aids are in urgent need in those mountain areas.

Upon their return to Japan, the ADRC reported the situation in those earthquake stricken areas to relevant organizations within Japan. In recovery/rehabilitation phase, “build back better” approach would be of great importance. ADRC will continue to work on it in coming months.



Landslide Area



School before Earthquake