



ADRC Highlights

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➤ Visiting Researchers of ADRC

The Visiting Researcher program of ADRC was introduced to its member countries in 1999 and it has already accepted visiting Researchers from Korea, Vietnam and Nepal. Visiting Researchers from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are working currently, at the ADRC quite effectively. The expressions about this program of Mr.Nimal D.Hettiarachchi, who is a Visiting Researcher from Sri Lanka, is published in current edition and impressions of the other Researchers will be published in the coming edition of ADRC Highlights.

□ About Visiting Researcher Program by Nimal D. Hettiarachchi



Since Disaster Management is a relatively new area which the governments, especially in Asian region, are taking in keen interest due to causing eminent damage by unprecedented natural and human made disasters. During the last two

decades, it has become absolute essential to avoid such a calamities and ensuring economic, social and environment development.

In this context, well-trained and highly experienced disaster related officials who can design meaningful and comprehensive plan, making decision to dominate emergency situation are invaluable resources to the highly vulnerable countries to disasters in Asian region.

The Visiting Researcher Program, conducting by ADRC is a unique program and gives coherent and cohesive direction to produce well-earned disaster managers. In deed, it is designed to create trained and experienced disaster managers who will enrich high performance, eliminating underline causes of disasters and overcoming future challenges. It also provides requisite knowledge for planning and promotion in the areas of disaster management such as preparedness, mitigation response and recovery activities.

Absolutely, this program is not an another training program, of which it provides better environment to the researchers to share experiences and knowledge, and to extent contribution and cooperation among the disaster related experts and professionals at the ADRC and in Japan. Despite, the researchers have been provided a spectrum on disaster management field for promoting their knowledge, there are favorable opportunities to involve disaster related researches in Japan and Asia. The Researcher has also been benefited to visit disaster prone areas such as volcanic eruption, earthquake and flood prone areas and to review countermeasures, which are constituted, by agencies and

institutions in Japan.

The Researchers can especially gather knowledge of information technologies and strategies, for example GIS, which are being used by ADRC for accumulation and dissemination disaster information. Furthermore, they have been provided benefits to attend seminars and conferences conducted by national or international organizations in Japan.

The Visiting Researcher Program of ADRC is aiming to provide for Asian countries experienced and knowledgeable disaster managers who enable to fulfill a long felt need of such countries, and carrying out disaster management activities quite effectively.

(Visiting Researcher, ADRC / Deputy Director (Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation), Project Coordinator (WFP, Project for Relief & Recovery Assistance to Displaced) Department of Social Services, SRI LANKA)

➤ Recent Natural Disaster

□ Sudden Tidal Surge in the Bay of Bengal

Sudden tidal surge in the Bay of Bengal and monsoon rainfall submerged Sandwip of Chittagon district and Hatia of Noakhali district of Bangladesh. As per report received from the district administration on 3rd Sep. 2000, twenty-one thousand families have been affected, many of whom have been rendered homeless. Three persons lost their lives and crops of sixteen thousand areas of land have been damaged. Many educational institutions, roads, embankments and ponds have been damaged. The loss of cattle-head and livestock is also great. The tidal surge water has started receding and Government Relief operation is going on in full swing.

(Posted by Khabiruddin Ahmed, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, BANGLADESH)

□ Floods and Landslides in Tokai District, Japan

One of the nation's heaviest rainfall hit Tokai district, the industrial heartland in Japan from September 10 to 12. Flooding and landslides from the heavy rains, which were triggered by typhoon and combined with a deadly stationary front, killed nine people and about 83,500 houses were inundated in this region.

At the height of the storm, 200,000 households had been advised to evacuate. The rising waters had also forced a 20-hour shutdown of the Shinkansen, high-speed bullet trains, the longest shutdown in its 36-year history as well as other transportation mired.

26 of the numerous automobile factories in the area, home to the famous motor corporation, had to stop their production.

Most of the evacuation counsel has been lifted on September 14.

(9/13, 14 Fire & Disaster Management Agency, CNN, etc.)

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