



ADRC Highlights Vol.20

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

March 19, 2001

➤ ADRC Cooperative Project

As we introduced in the Vol 10 of ADRC Highlights, we have started our regional cooperative project with Nepal, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka in Japanese Fiscal Year 2000. Our staff visited project sites to observe the present situation.

ADRC aims to share outcome and lessons learnt from these cooperative projects among our member countries for their disaster reduction management. Thus we expect these newly launched projects will be good replica for future projects. We will make the final report of those 4 projects after April 2001.

□ Nepal "Raising Public Awareness for Disaster Reduction" (Investigation Period: Feb. 19-24, 2001)



We are implementing training programs for the local leaders at 30 places in 10 districts all over the country, as well as radio broadcast, for the general public to raise public awareness of disaster reduction. The attendance of each training program is about 20, who are village mayors, school teachers, scout leaders, woman leaders, NGO leaders, and local policemen/corps etc. The instructors are government staff in charge of the disaster management at Ministry of Home, Chief

District Officer, Superintendent of District Police, Local Irrigation Officer, and Local Forest Officer. They give lectures about the plans, organization, public awareness programs, or relief and rescue activities of the government for disaster reduction, and causal relationship between deforestation and flood etc.

Nepal has inconvenient traffic situation because of its geographical features, which makes it difficult to gather at one certain place. The characteristics of the program is that the lecturers themselves, such as officials from both National and District Government, visit each village to raise public awareness from the viewpoint of grass roots level, instead of gathering village people from far distance. I felt great enthusiasm of National Government for raising public awareness in cooperation with District government. Also I could find much device in the leaflets for raising public awareness. They used a lot of pictures allowing for the low literacy rate.

The attendance listened to the lectures attentively with taking notes and discussed with them lively. This may be because these local leaders suffer from the flood and landslide every year and these kinds of training are the first experience for them.

While, the radio broadcast is the most effective media in Nepal where television is not common use especially in mountainous areas. Thus we provide the public awareness programs through radio broadcast at the slot just after the most popular news programs both in the morning and evening.

The person in charge of this project in Nepal, Mr. Lekh Nath Pokharel, Section Officer, Ministry of Home used to work at ADRC as a visiting researcher last year. He has made a lot of effort for preparation and implementation of this project all over the country. We have convinced that our visiting researcher program has brought fruitful outcome with the recognition of the important roll of the person in charge for the project. (by Ryosuke AOTA, Senior Researcher)

□ Cambodia "Human Resources Development on Disaster Management" (Investigation Period: Feb. 15-17, 2001)

In Cambodia, capacity building of government officials at central, provincial and district levels is one of the most urgent tasks. Therefore, based on the request of the National Committee of Disaster Management (NCDM) of Kingdom of Cambodia, the ADRC has been cooperating in such capacity building of government officials, especially in provinces and districts. Target areas were mainly three provinces of Kampong Cham, Kandal and Pursat. Main themes are: 1) to clarify the functions and responsibilities of all entities at provincial and district levels; 2) to clarify lines of authority and direction to ensure effective coordination of disaster management activities; 3) to train members of PCDM

and DCDM in target provinces; and 4) to sustainably develop the institutional capacity and capability of PCDM and DCDM.

From ADRC, Dr. Ogawa, Executive Director, and Mr. Kusaka, Senior Researcher, attended the training together with Mr. Peou Samy, Secretary General of NCDM, and Deputy Governors of Pursat, in order to observe the training. 11 NCDM staff were dispatched from Phnom Penh to conduct the training. 34 trainees participated very actively in the training of disaster management and the training was completed successfully.



Opening ceremony of the training in Pursat

Pursat Province is located approximately 180 km northwest of Phnom Penh. The Province is sandwiched between Lake Tonle Sap, the largest lake in the kingdom, in the north and Cardamom Mountains in the south. Every rainy season see floods in the Province due to the lake expansion and water flow from the Mountains. Last year alone the Province suffered floods three times. We sincerely hope these trainings will contribute in preventing future disasters and reducing damages in Cambodia. (by Taichi KUSAKA, Senior Researcher)

□ Indonesia Community-based Flood Mitigation Project

Between March 5 to 9, 2001 ADRC dispatched mission travel to Indonesia for the purpose of observing the situation of Cooperative Project.

(1) Cooperative Project on Community-based Flood Mitigation Project



The objective of this project is to empower the local community to mitigate the risk of flood with appropriate participatory process from the grass root. To bring the community to understand their area with their problem, we implemented "Town Watching" program, which citizens walk around the part of town bringing map and instant photo to find out the situation of disaster risk and discuss the issues. About 27 participants from the community, local government, NGO and student from Bandung Institute Technology

(ITB) joined the Town Watching on Flood Mitigation in RW (District) 9 & RW14 in Bandung city. The participants were divided into 3 groups, and they presented quite impressive result.

(2) Installation of ADRC Web Mirror Site

Since the server of ADRC is only located in Kobe, it is considered a big risk if for some reason it stop, also the speed of internet line is limited to 128kbps, it needs line with higher speed. Fortunately, our mirror site which is located at Bandung Institute Technology has a speed of 2Mbps, and it is now able to access from <http://padrc.itb.ac.id/>

Besides of the above activities, we did the "Experiment on data transferring from remote area by using satellite communication" for the future development of our information providing technology.

The experiment using the Inmarsat Satellite was done in the village near Bogor city, where is no electricity nor piped water in the area. The direction of antenna, the surrounding environment influences much in the connection to the satellite. But at last, the experiment was done successfully, even with some notes for the future using. (by Bambang Rudyanto, Senior Researcher)

□ Sri Lanka "Disaster Management Training Programme"

We will conduct the training program for the officials in charge of Disaster Management in Local Government from March 26 to 31, 2001. ADRC staff will visit and observe this program for estimation.

If you have comments or needs for this Newsletter, please write to ADRC in the right box.

Published by : Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)

3rd Floor, IHD Bld. 1-5-1, WAKIHAMAKAIGAN-DORI, CHUO-KU, KOBE

651-0073, JAPAN E-mail: editor@adrc.or.jp Phone: +81-78-230-0346