



# ADRC Highlights

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### ➤ Promotion of Effective Disaster Information Sharing by "Unique ID Number"

#### □ <GDIN Adopted ADRC's Proposal in Canberra>



The 4th Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN) Conference was held from March 20 to 23, 2001 in Canberra, Australia. About 250 participants who work in disaster management field all over the world joined this conference.

GDIN started with the initiative of the U. S. Department of State for the purpose of

constructing a global framework to share disaster-related information, which would contribute to reduce the victims by disasters. GDIN 2001, sponsored by Emergency Management Australia (EMA), was the 4th GDIN international conference. Based on the agreement of the concept to promote the sharing of disaster-related information at the previous conferences, we discussed about the concrete action plan and business plan from now on.

In the Asia Pacific working group meeting held in Canberra in August 2000, ADRC proposed "Unique ID Number Project" for effective use of existing data resources on disaster events, which was based on our 2-years activities to facilitate information sharing among Asian countries. It was to propose a concrete scheme for GDIN to promote information sharing in the disaster management field. To be concrete, it is to introduce a globally common identifier number system for disaster events' data. Before presenting our proposal in this conference, we ironed out the opinion among CRED, ReliefWeb, or other related organizations. Also, we made a pilot project for making an example of making effective use of this CRED ID number on ADRC Website.

In this conference, after three-times presentations for the explanation, and discussions at group sessions, all participants agreed below.

- (1) For historical disaster events data, GDIN member organizations will use existing CRED (Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, Louvain Catholic University, Brussels) ID, which covers more than 12,000 disaster events data from 1900 all around the world as globally common ID.
- (2) GDIN member organizations will add CRED ID on their historical events databases.
- (3) GDIN member organizations will amend CRED data if necessary.
- (4) GDIN member organizations will open their database to the Inter Net so that it would be searched from outside.
- (5) Search engines will be created to provide necessary information about historical disaster data stored in various information resources using the Unique ID number.
- (6) For the on-going/ new disasters, ReliefWeb of UN-OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) will provide and announce such ID Number just after the occurrence of disasters, and GDIN member organizations will use this ID for their information dissemination

Our proposal was called "ADRC-CRED-ReliefWeb Joint Project" and was finally adopted as one of the 4 GDIN pilot projects. It has got good evaluation as the most effective project. We will promote this project in cooperation with CRED and ReliefWeb. It is supposed we could get the consensus because our proposal was very reasonable and simple. Please note that it proposes to build a kind of circumstances to share and make

effective use of the existing information resources scattered all over the world instead of creating a new database.

At the end of the conference, Mr. Masahiko Murata, Senior Researcher of ADRC, who had been proposing and promoting this project, was awarded the commendation by EMA. For further information about this project, we will introduce in our Website.

### ➤ ADRC Visiting Researcher Program

By Mr. Chulananda Perera



I came to ADRC as a visiting researcher with the 21<sup>st</sup> century close at hand. The benefits that I reaped throughout of my stay here are immense and cannot be expressed by words. Especially, the introduction of information technology and strategies, the GIS based disaster management technology, which would, beyond doubt, enrich my working abilities in my country for the common goal of sustainable socio-economic development through enhanced technologies of disaster prevention, mitigation, and preparedness.

Actually, the visiting researcher program of ADRC bridges the gap between the practicability and the knowledge base of disaster management in member countries. Further, this unique program brings together exceptionally varied group academics in Japan and other world wide related institutions and multi national researchers with immense work experience in their specialty for the purpose of effective disaster management in the region. The difference between other training programs and visiting researcher program is the main reason for the success and uniqueness of the program. As a visiting researcher from a disaster prone country, I strongly believe that such a combination of human resource and physical and IT facilities available at ADRC provides an excellent environment for research that is supportive, provocative, challenging and satisfying.

Finally, hats off to ADRC for their valuable contribution in the field and the very friendly and intellectual staff who helped me to feel home away from home.

(Visiting Researcher ADRC / Deputy Director, National Disaster Management Center, Ministry of Social Services, Sri Lanka)

### ➤ Recent Natural Disasters in Asia

#### □ GEIYO Earthquake in Japan

A strong earthquake of the magnitude 6.4 on the Richter scale has struck a wide area in western Japan at 15:28 (local time) on March 24, 2001. The epicenter of the earthquake is Akinada, offshore of Hiroshima Prefecture, about 430 miles southwest of Tokyo.

Considering the very large magnitude, the damage by this earthquake is not so huge. However, authorities in and around Hiroshima reported two people lost their lives and 254 people were injured. 30 houses were totally collapsed and about 20,000 houses were partially damaged. As of March 30, sixty families are still evacuated from their houses.

(March 30, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Japan etc.)

### ➤ Mr. Murata Leave and Mr. Yoshimura Join ADRC

Mr. Masahiko Murata, who had been a Senior Researcher of ADRC and a chief editor of this newsletter since its foundation, was transferred to the preparation section for the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Center, Hyogo Prefectural Government on April 1, 2001. Mr. Fumiaki Yoshimura will succeed to his place.

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

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