



ADRC Highlights

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➤ ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report

by So Ban Heang



Cambodia is located in Southeast Asia. The country has been frequently affected by natural disasters such as floods, drought, and storm. Besides the natural disasters, Cambodia also experiences man-made disasters like war and fire. Among these disasters, floods continue to be one of the most severe annual disasters in Cambodia and in Asia as well. The intensity of floods appears to be increasing in Asia, especially during the past few years.

The 2000 Floods in Cambodia were exceptional and appeared as the worst disaster in the Cambodian history, lasting longer, being more

widespread and severe than those in the past years. They affected 750,618 households in 21 Provinces or municipality, damaged 688,021 ha of consumption and cash crops, and caused a great deal of loss to properties and infrastructure. Given the extensive damage caused by the floods, a conclusion was drawn that disaster management processes in Cambodia needed improving and strengthening.

For this purpose, General Secretariat of the National Center for Disaster Management (NCDM) focuses its attention on several areas of activities to strengthen capacity of staff from the national down to the local levels. The NCDM is planning to formulate the disaster prevention/reduction plan firstly at the national level, and then introducing the idea to the provincial and district staff to formulate such plans at their respective levels.

As a visiting researcher from such a disaster-prone country, I wish strongly to share the disaster information from my country with ADRC member countries and also learn from them. Apart from sharing of information I am eagerly interested in conducting research on disaster reduction and management. The ADRC Web site coupled with access to Internet GIS "VENTEN" provides large scale of disaster management information all over the world. One month has passed since I joined ADRC as a visiting researcher and I found the experience here excellent and satisfying. This is owed to the good support and the kind assistance of ADRC staff who are eager to share their knowledge.

Finally I would like to extend my profound gratitude to ADRC and its staff for providing NCDM with the Capacity Building for Disaster Preparedness and Reduction Programme. With the ADRC support, the NCDM was able to conduct the training courses for the officials in the three disaster prone provinces, Kampong Cham, Kandal, and Pursat. I also would like to express my sincere thanks to ADRC for giving me an opportunity to work as an ADRC visiting researcher. I believe this shall be considered as equipping the NCDM with expert knowledge and new technology related to Disaster Reduction and Management.

< So Ban Heang, Secretary of the Scientific and Technical Committee, General Secretariat, National Committee for Disaster Management, Cambodia >

➤ Promotion of mutual cooperation between ADPC and ADRC

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (Kobe, Japan) and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) has cooperated each other for sharing Disaster Information, Education and Training.

To develop a mutually partnership aimed at working together to strengthen regional cooperation and national disaster management capabilities among and in countries of the Asia region, both organization signed Memorandum of Understanding on June 28, 2001 in Bangkok Thailand. (at Le Royal Meridien Bangkok)



At the ceremony, Dr. Yujiro Ogawa Executive Director of ADRC and Dr. Suvit Yodmani Executive Director of ADPC attended along with Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman of ADPC Board of Trustees (present Minister of Thailand) and Mr. Nobutoshi Akao Ambassador of Japan to Thailand. And EMA (Australian Emergency Management Institute) and SOPAC (South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission)'s representatives attend this ceremony too.

➤ Conference & Exhibition Information

☐ Symposium on Best Practices in Humanitarian Information Exchange

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) hosts this symposium in Geneva, Switzerland. The Symposium will consist of two days (Sept 17-18) of small, focused working groups and followed by two days (Sept 19-20) of a larger audience, plenary meeting of panel discussions and presentations.

The Symposium will review lessons learned from various humanitarian information activities and promote best practices to improve the sharing and dissemination of information used in the coordination of emergency relief programmes. Symposium is intended for international humanitarian professionals with expertise in the collection, dissemination and management of information, working for international organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations, research groups, the media and the private sector.

For more information, contact Symposium Coordinator, Dennis King at kingdj@un.org or see the Symposium website at <http://www.reliefweb.int/symposium>.

☐ Int'l Exhibition for Disaster Control and Emergency Treatment Services

Shanghai Municipal Civil Defense Office will hold this exhibition at Shanghai International Convention Center from September 18 to 20, 2001. It will provide exhibit of disaster management technology, and education, equipment, and so on. Besides, various activities including a forum, seminars will take place during the event. For detailed information, please contact Mr. Kwan Chu at enesjonathan@ctimail3.com.

➤ Recent Natural Disasters in Asia

☐ Floods in South Korea

In South Korea, dozens of people have been killed by the flood since July 14. This was caused by the worst torrential rains in 37 years in South Korea. The rains, which measured up to 31.1 centimeters (12.2 inches) overnight on July 15, also flooded 34,000 homes in Seoul and Kyonggi-do, heavily populated area surrounding the capital. It was reported 45 people were killed, 9 were missing, and 145 houses were heavily damaged as of July 16, 2001.

☐ Typhoon caused heavy damages in Philippines and China

Typhoon Utor hit Northern Luzon of Philippines on July 4, triggering landslides and floods. As of July 16, the toll caused by Typhoon has risen to 163 deaths, 180 injuries and 60 still missing. The total number of the affected people increased to 1,091,943. The estimated cost of damage amounts to USD 37 million: USD 18.6 million to infrastructure, USD 17.1 million to agriculture and USD 1.0 million to private properties.

After causing heavy damages in Philippines, Typhoon Utor struck and left consequential damage to southern China with Typhoon Dorian. Guangdong Province and Guangxi Autonomous Region are the worst affected areas. In the areas 33 were killed, 8,298 were injured, and about 100,000 houses were collapsed in total as of July 9, 2001.

☐ Floods in India

Heavy rainfall has caused major flooding in 16 different districts of Orissa State in the eastern part of India since last week. As of July 16, the floods have claimed the lives of 23 people and 3.32 million people are reported to be affected by the flooding. More than 25,000 people living in 400 villages are marooned. An estimated 20,000 people have been rendered homeless by the floods

(Source: UN OCHA Situation Report etc.)

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

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