



ADRC Highlights Vol.31

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

September 3, 2001

➤ The Promotion of "Unique ID Project"

A meeting on "A Unique Disaster Identifier Number (UDIDN) for a single disaster event" was held at the initiative of [CRED \(Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disaster\), Louvain Catholic University](#) from August 13 to 14 in Brussels, Belgium. In addition to CRED and ADRC, members from [OCHA ReliefWeb](#), [FAO](#), [World Bank](#), and [OFDA/USAID](#) participated and had a substantial discussion extending over 2 days.

We discussed the concrete program for promoting [Unique ID number project](#) proposed by [Mr. Murata, former senior researcher of ADRC](#) at GDIN (Global Disaster Information Network) Meeting in Canberra in March 2001. We especially talked about the format of UDIDN, the procedure of creating and informing of a new number, and clarification of responsibilities of each organization for enforcement of the project.

We had two proposals on the format of UDIDN. The first proposal is to add double digits to the CRED original IDs which have been numbered for the disaster data in the past 100 years. The proposed ID is decided in the format of "year-disaster ID - serial number". (Please see the attached list for the details of disaster ID). For example, "2001-FL-1011" stands for the 1011th flood disaster occurred in 2001. The other proposal is to use the CRED original format, "year-serial number", for UDIDN. The disaster of above example is represented by "2001-1011".

We will follow the below procedure for creating and informing of a new ID number.

1. After the occurrence of a disaster, ReliefWeb creates a new UDIDN and inform CRED of the number by E-mail.
2. CRED creates UDIDN for the other disaster occurred for a week.
3. CRED informs newly numbered UDIDN within a week to ADRC by E-mail.
4. ADRC informs the new UDIDN to the other organization through the ADRC newsletter distribution route once a week.

The responsibilities of each organization for promoting the project were proposed as follows. At first, we introduce the project mainly in the Asian region.

<ADRC>

1. To ask its member countries for the cooperation to this project
2. To monitor disasters in the Asian region, and send information to CRED by E-mail if disasters occurred
3. To add UDIDN to its database of the latest disaster information after receiving the new UDIDN from CRED by E-mail
4. To inform and ask to add the new UDIDN for each organization of its member countries.

<CRED>

1. To create UDIDN for the latest disaster, and inform ADRC of it
2. To modify its homepage that can be accessed from outside
3. To develop a search engine for disaster information
4. To create a homepage to support UDIDN system

<ReliefWeb, OCHA>

1. To create UDIDN for the latest disaster, and inform CRED of it
2. To create a homepage to support UDIDN system

The result of the meeting will be presented [at OCHA's conference \(Symposium on Best Practices in Humanitarian Information Exchange\) on September in Geneva](#). We will ask participants for understanding and cooperation to the project.

Besides, ADRC will provide the technical information for the developing database of disaster information and introducing UDIDN. For any further inquiry, please contact us without hesitation.

[Disaster ID]

Disaster Type;			
Drought	: DR	Earthquake	: EQ
Epidemic	: EP	Extreme Temperature	: ET
Insect Infestation	: IN	Flood	: FL
Slide	: SL	Volcano	: VL
Wave/Surge	: WV	Wild Fire	: WF
Wind Storm	: ST	Technological	: AC

(Mr. Masaru Arakida, Senior Researcher)

➤ ADRC Staff Profiles No. 4

□ Mr. Ryosuke Aota, Senior Researcher



In Sri Lanka

I have worked for ADRC more than 3 years since the establishment of this center in July 1998. I am seconded from Hyogo Prefectural Government which is located in the affected area of Kobe Earthquake in 1995. I have experienced in working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japanese government and stayed in Australia for two years.

Now my job is related to Asia. In this regard, my job career might be unique as a local government officer. But I have enjoyed my job through which I was able

to find many Asian friends. I share similar Asian culture with these friends. I also exchange communication not only about natural disasters, but also about personal matters like our view of lives.

I have been mainly in charge of cooperative projects for disaster reduction and disaster management training programme at ADRC. I have actually visited some local sites in ADRC's member countries. There I am always worried about the vulnerability to disasters. Rivers without any dykes, slender posts of office buildings and miserable residential areas of slums make me realize that even natural disasters on a small scale are likely to bring huge loss.

Through these three years, I have learned the following two matters ; Firstly, only emergency relief is not enough for capacity building of disaster reduction. Rehabilitation, reconstruction and preparedness are also necessary to mitigate disasters. Secondly, understanding "Needs" is quite important for disaster reduction cooperation, based on the social, cultural and economic factors of recipient countries. To increase my specialty, I have personally studied disaster management in a postgraduate course since last April. I am not sure how I could dedicate myself for disaster mitigation in the Asian region, but I would like to do my best.

➤ Recent Natural Disaster in Asia

□ Floods in Northern Thailand

On August 11, Typhoon "Usagi" hit northern Thailand, causing flash floods. As of August 14, it was reported that 104 people were killed. An estimated 450,000 people have been affected. An initial media report indicate that worst affected area was Nam Kor village in Petchaboon province, 300 km north of Bangkok.

(Aug. 14, OCHA Situation Report No. 1)

□ Floods triggered by severe rain in northern Iran

On August 10, the severe rain caused floods in northern Iran. 214 deaths have been confirmed and at least 188 people are still missing as of August 22. The most affected areas are the province Khorasan and Golestan in northern part of Iran. The deluge has submerged some 10,000 hectares (37,000 acres) of farm and destroyed around 4,000 houses. This is the worst flooding in this area in 200 years.

(Aug. 19, CNN News / Aug. 22 OCHA situation report No.5)

□ A big typhoon hit Japan and damaged heavily

A big typhoon has caused serious damage to some part of Japan, especially in the areas along the Pacific coast since August 20. It was confirmed 6 people were killed, 9 seriously injured, 23 slightly injured as of August 23. Besides, 46 houses were destroyed partially, 82 houses were flooded above the floor, and 613 houses were flooded under the floor. (8/23 Fire and Disaster Management Agency, 8/23 Asahi.com)

□ Floods in Cambodia

August 25, Cambodia was hit by flood triggered by the deluge of Mekong River. At least 35 people are killed and about 560,000 people were affected.

(Aug. 30, OCHA Situation Report No.1)

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

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