



ADRC Highlights

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➤ **ADRC participates in WMO/ESCAP Panel on the Tropical Cyclones held in Myanmar**



The 29th session of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea was held in Yangon, Myanmar from 12-18 March 2002. ADRC was

invited to the discussions on the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Component of this Panel. Satoru Nishikawa, Executive Director and Masanori Araki, Chief Administrator of ADRC participated and had discussions on the possibility of ADRC's cooperation for information capacity building for Tropical Cyclone Panel. ADRC also took this opportunity to visit Fire Services Department (H.Q), Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Ministry of Transport Department of Meteorology & Hydrology of Myanmar to discuss further cooperation.

➤ **The Opening of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution**

Seven years have passed since the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake occurred in January 1995. To pass on the experiential lessons of the Great Earthquake not only to Japan but also to all over the world and to our children, Hyogo prefecture has been constructing the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial "Disaster



Reduction and Human Renovation Institution", and it will open on April 27, 2002 in Kobe neighboring ADRC and OCHA Kobe.

This Institution's functions are "Strongly appealed exhibitions of the Earthquake", "Comprehensive research focusing on practical steps for effective disaster management", "Assistance to disaster response and human resource development for disaster-ready personnel" and "promotion of communication and networking with disaster prevention organizations both within Japan and abroad".

Especially Exhibition corner is excellent, so if you have chance to visit Japan, please drop in at this Institute.

(Mr. Fumiaki Yoshimura, Senior Researcher)

➤ **ADRC Staff Profiles No. 13**

□ **Mr. Kazuyuki Yoshinaga, Administrative Manager**

I have joined the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) from Hyogo Prefectural Government this April. When I first became a Hyogo Prefectural government officer, I worked at the Toyooka public works office which is located in the northern part of Hyogo, and then I moved to the water quality division of the environment bureau. When the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake occurred, I was working for the International EMECS Center whose



main goal is to organize international conferences for the environmental management of enclosed coastal seas all over the world. Unfortunately, the earthquake destroyed the Center, and I spent the next few months devoting my time to reopening the Center and worked hard delivering various kinds of rescue goods such as medicine, food, etc. I had further problems during the time because my son suffered from pneumonia due to the fatigue of the evacuation. However, under such difficult circumstances, I have learned the most valuable thing, that is, the importance of cooperation and support for each other.

My assignment at ADRC will surely give me good opportunities to offer support to the people who helped us after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Especially, I hope I can contribute to making a safer and more secure environment in Asia.

➤ **Recent Natural Disasters in Asia**

□ **Landslides caused a heavy damage in PNG**

The landslide in the early hours of Tuesday, 2 April in the Wantoat area of Markham District in Morobe Province, 79 km Northwest of Lae, killed 9 people and left 27 people missing. The number of people at the disaster area currently requiring assistance is 138 people.

(National Disaster Management Office, Department of Provincial & Local Level Govt.)

□ **Forest Fires destroyed virgin forests in Vietnam**

A forest fire, that started on 23 March in the 8,000-hectare U Minh Thuong National Park in the southern province of Ca Mau, have destroyed over 4,000 hectares of virgin forest. This will affect the lives of thousands of poor families living in the area, and will also have significant ecological impacts, including loss of biodiversity and habitat to local species.

(4/9 OCHA ReliefWeb Situation Report etc.)

➤ **Announcement**

Dr. Yujiro Ogawa and Mr. Ryosuke Aota left ADRC on April 1. Dr. Ogawa became a full-time professor of faculty of Environment and Disaster Management of Fuji Tokoha Univ. He will continue to be an adviser for ADRC as a visiting researcher. Mr. Aota ended his four-year assignment as a seconded staff from Hyogo Prefectural government.

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

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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