



ADRC Highlights Vol.56

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

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➤ Expert Group Meeting on the Role of Regional Organizations and Networks in Strengthening Capacities for Disaster Reduction

The UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) organized an Expert Group Meeting on the Role of Regional Organizations and Networks in Strengthening Capacities for Disaster Reduction in Geneva from September 25th to 27th, 2002.



Regional organizations and networks are playing an increasingly important role in strengthening capacities for disaster reduction in different regions around the world. UNDP has increasingly adopted a sub-regional or regional focus in the development of its own strategies and capacity building programmes and, in doing so, has engaged and developed cooperative relationships with a range of regional organizations and networks.

ADRC was invited to represent Asia together with SOPAC and ADPC. Aside from regional organizations, a network of South Asian NGO's, Duryog Nivaran, and regional organizations from Latin America, the Caribbean, Southern Africa, and South East Europe were also present. ADRC's presentation drew strong attention from the participants. Also, the GLIDE number (unique ID number for disasters worldwide) concept proposed by ADRC and the multi-language glossary of natural disasters which is in service on ADRC's website were welcomed as innovative tools for sharing expertise and information.

➤ 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group on Disaster Management (AEGDM) was held in Viet Nam



The 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group on Disaster Management (AEGDM) was held from September 16th to 18th, 2002 in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

The Meeting was attended by ASEAN member countries, the ASEAN Secretariat, observers from ADPC and ADRC. After the keynote speech by His Excellency Mr. Le Huy Ngo, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam, delegates sought to strengthen cooperation between ASEAN member countries. The Chair Country, Viet Nam, proposed two key initiatives, one ensure the Safety of Children in the Flood Prone Area and another to establish a website for disaster management for ASEAN countries.

The meeting is an important forum in which to share information and enhance mutual cooperation for disaster reduction in the region. ADRC would like to interact with AEDGM further.

(Fumiaki Yoshimura, Senior Researcher)

➤ Recent Natural Disasters in Asia

❑ Avalanche caused serious damage in Russia

On Friday, September 20th, 2002 approximately 15km south of the village of Karmadon in the southern Russian Republic of North Ossetia-Alania, a large part of the glacier 'Kolka' broke off and crashed down a mountainside. As a result, a mudslide 200 meters wide and 10 to 100 meters thick was generated over a length of 11km, coming to a halt about 7km south of the settlement of Gizel, thereby blocking the Karmadon Gorge and raising the danger of flooding.

According to EMERCOM of Russia, as of September 27th, 12 people have been found dead, 27 people have been rescued, and 99 are missing including a film crew and 20 employees of the North Ossetian Parliament's staff and administration. The mudslide destroyed several holiday resorts, sewage disposal plants, water wells, and a power transmission line over a length of 1.5 km.

[\(9/23 & 9/27 OCHA Situation Report\)](#)

❑ Flash Flood in Central Vietnam

Flash floods induced by torrential rains which started on September 20 caused heavy damage in the provinces of Ha Tinh and Nghe An, Central Vietnam, and have been described as the worst since 1934.

According to the press, the floods submerged more than 80 % of the communities in Huong Son, half of the communities in Huong Khe, Vu Quang and Duc Tho districts, and all of them in Ha Tinh Province. They also caused landslides and temporarily cut off the north-south railway. As of September 25, the UNDP/MARD-Disaster Management Unit reported that 50 had been killed, 111 injured, and over 53,000 houses were flooded in the province.

Also, flash floods hit the district of Chu Prong in the province of Gia Lai in the Central Highlands on Tuesday, September 24th, damaging crops and infrastructure. The damage is estimated at USD 100,000.

[\(9/24 & 9/27 OCHA Situation Report\)](#)

➤ Conference Information

❑ 6th Int'l Conference on Corporate Earthquake Programs

The above conference under the theme of "Disaster Mitigation and its Sustainable Effort" will be held on October 28th to 30th, 2002 in Osaka, JAPAN. The primary objective of this Conference Series is to improve corporate earthquake hazard mitigation strategies, response, and recovery programs by involving private sector risk managers, earthquake hazard mitigation professionals, and researchers from both the public and private sectors throughout the world. This conference will facilitate technology and information transfer, thus improving not only the technological sophistication, but also the level of implementation of earthquake protection programs in the private sector.

For more details, please visit <http://www.drs.dpri.kyoto-u.ac.jp/iscdredd/>

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