



ADRC Highlights Vol.62

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

January 1 & 16, 2002



Greetings for the new year 2003.

We would like to wish a happy new year to our readers and sincerely hope that the impact of disasters this year will be less than the last. ADRC will hold our 5th annual meeting from 15-17 of January in Kobe. We would like to express our appreciation for all the support extended to us since our establishment in July 1998, which has enabled us to mark this important event for disaster reduction in Asia. In April, ADRC will move to the newly built Hanshin-Awaji Memorial Center Phase 2 building, which will place us in closer proximity to other disaster relevant research institutions. ADRC hopes to take advantage of this new environment to increase our capabilities for disaster reduction in Asia. Thank you.



➤ ADRC Cooperative Project 2002 □ Seminar on Improvement of Early Warning System and Responses in Bangladesh



As one of ADRC's cooperative projects between its member countries, Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief jointly organized a week long seminar on "Improvement of Early Warning Systems and Responses" in collaboration with

the UN OCHA office in Kobe from the 19th to the 24th of December, 2002. Forty national government and related organizations' officials participated in the seminar.

The Honorable Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Minister for Disaster Management and Relief, inaugurated the seminar as its chief guest. Mr. BMM Mozharul Huq, Secretary, joined the seminar as a special guest. Dr. Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, Director of BPATC, chaired one session of the seminar. The Honorable Minister stressed the importance of implementation of the recommendations from the seminar.

Several resource people from Japan Meteorological Agency, PASCO Co. and Hyogo Educational Board, Japan also attended the seminar to share the lessons of Earthquake, Typhoon, and Flood disaster management in Japan.

Results of the seminar will be reported to the Honorable Minister as "Recommendations". For further inquiry, please contact Mr. Yoshimura (yoshimura@adrc.or.jp).

➤ ADRC On-line Glossary on Natural Disasters is now available in Korean and Chinese!!

ADRC provides an on-line glossary of natural disaster related terms

on its website as an information sharing tool. Using the glossary, you can look up a natural disaster related word over the Internet in 4 languages: English, French, Spanish, and Japanese.



In January 2003 we added two more languages, Korean and Chinese, to the glossary with great cooperation in reviewing Korean words and terms by the Korea National Institute for Disaster Prevention, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs.

The ADRC Multi-language glossary is available on the following URL: <http://html.adrc.or.jp/dbs/trans2.asp?lang=en>

➤ The 35th session of WMO/ESCAP Typhoon Committee

From the 18th to the 25th of November 2002, the 35th session of the WMO/ESCAP Typhoon Committee was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand hosted by the Meteorological Department of Thailand. Executive Director of ADRC Satoru Nishikawa provided input to the discussions of the DPP (Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Component).

If you have comments or requests for this Newsletter, please write to ADRC at the address on the right.

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The Typhoon Committee has 14 members in the West Pacific, which is affected by typhoons. It comes together to exchange information on scientific findings and review lessons learned during the typhoon season with the participation of meteorologists, hydrologists, and disaster management experts in the region.

ADRC distributed an educational video, "Protect Yourself from Storms and Floods", to members as a reference material for public awareness programs. ADRC circulated a list of Internet Websites that Typhoon Committee Members can access for disaster prevention and preparedness information and invited others to provide additional information. ADRC also delivered a message from the UN ISDR secretariat.



The 36th session is scheduled for the 9th to 15th of December 2003 in Malaysia.

➤ ASEAN Regional Forum(ARF) Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Seminar



The ARF Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Seminar, organized by the Ministry of Defence of Singapore, was held from the 4th to 6th of December 2002.

ARF is a forum of 22 countries in Asia, the Pacific, and the EU that was formed in 1994 with the aim to promote dialogue on diplomacy and security issues, leading to greater confidence in the Asia Pacific region. Diplomats and military personnel from 20 countries and the EU attended this seminar.

At the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, ADRC Executive Director Satoru Nishikawa made a visual presentation on the Hanshin-Awaji (Kobe) Earthquake and the progress of Japanese Earthquake Countermeasures that drew great attention from the participants. He also introduced the Hanshin-Awaji Memorial DRI, (Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institute) which serves as an extensive archive of materials on the Kobe Earthquake, and encouraged them to visit Kobe.

Other presentations included Singapore Civil Defence Urban Search and Rescue Teams' experience of earthquakes in Taiwan and Indonesia, and Singapore International Foundation Medical Teams' experience of forest fires in Mongolia.

➤ Asian Seismological Commission 2002 in Nepal

Asian Seismological Commission (ASC) 2002 was held from November 24th to 26th, 2002, in Kathmandu, Nepal. Dr. Harumi Yashiro, Senior Researcher of ADRC, attended the symposium on Seismology, Earthquake Hazard Assessment, and Risk Management.



The meeting was held for researchers of countries that have seismic risks and was sponsored by the National Society for Earthquake Technology, Nepal. The meeting was attended by about 200 participants from India, the Azerbaijan Republic, Armenia, Russia, China, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Japan and others.

In the symposium, there were several interesting presentations on Hazard Assessment, Earthquake Process, Risk Management Strategies, Earthquake Source Physics, Strong Ground Motion, and Early Warnings. Dr. Yashiro of ADRC presented his work on "Seismic Risk Analysis on a Portfolio of Buildings in JAPAN" in the symposium.

Please contact Dr. Yashiro (yashiro@adrc.or.jp) for more information.

➤ Visitors to ADRC

□ The delegation of the Iranian Red Crescent Society

A delegation of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) consisting of 24 members and headed by the Secretary General of IRCS, Mr. Abbas Sahraei Ardakani, visited Japan from December 16th to 21st 2002. The delegation came to Hyogo, Japan in order to study advanced response and reduction measures for various kinds of disasters. The group also visited Tokyo where the headquarters of the Japanese Red Cross Society is located.



On the morning of December 18th, they visited ADRC and our neighboring organization, the UN's OCHA office in Kobe. ADRC gave them an outline of its functions and activities. The members showed strong interest in ADRC's activities and an intention to promote cooperation with ADRC.

During their stay in Hyogo they also visited the Emergency Management Center of Hyogo Prefectural Government, Hyogo International Center of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institute, and other related organizations.

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