



ADRC Highlights

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➤ UN 7th ISDR Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting

ADRC, as a member of the ISDR Inter-Agency Task Force, participated in the 7th Task Force Meeting held at the United Nations in Geneva on April 10th and 11th, 2003. Mr. Kenzo Oshima, Under-Secretary -General for Humanitarian Affairs,



chaired the meeting. It started with a briefing on programs and activities of the ISDR Secretariat by Mr. Salvano Briceno, Director of the ISDR Secretariat, which included an update on the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, an outline of preparations for the Second International Conference on Early Warning, and a follow-up report to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Reports from the four working groups (WG1: Climate and Disasters, WG2: Early Warning, WG3: Risk, Vulnerability and Impact Assessments, WG4: Wildland Fires) were then presented. Working Group 3 reported on the outcome of the recent meeting held on the 10th and 11th of March in Geneva, which included an endorsement for further development and promotion of GLIDE (GLobal unique disaster IDentifier number) as a tool for easier access to databases in cooperation with ADRC and GLIDE partners. A comprehensive report of the ad-hoc discussion group on drought was also presented, proposing recommendations that were endorsed by the Task Force.

During the discussion on the ISDR work program for 2004-05, a representative of the Government of Japan explained its position vis-à-vis the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action and announced that Japan is considering hosting the consolidating event for the review in January, 2005 in Kobe, Japan. The offer was recognized and appreciated by the Task Force since it would provide a significant opportunity for ongoing review of the Yokohama Strategy and reception of proposals for the future work of the ISDR. It was also suggested that the Japanese Government's proposal should be noted in the report of the Secretary General, which will be submitted to the 58th Session of the General Assembly.

Several events contributing to the review of the Yokohama Strategy were introduced. A regional forum in Europe, the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Disaster Reduction, organized by the Council of Europe, will be held in Madrid from the 6th to the 8th of October, 2003, hosted by the Government of Spain. A thematic forum, the Second International Early Warning Conference (EWCI), will also be held from the 15th to the 19th of October, 2003 in Bonn, hosted by the Government of Germany.

An active discussion took place to review the work of the Task Force between 2000-02 and to determine its future program of

work. It was discussed that the program of work for 2004-05 should be based on an assessment of modalities and results of previous work. Additionally, it was suggested that issues of urban risk and vulnerability, as well as a follow-up to WSSD in suggested focus areas that link climate change adaptation to disaster risk reduction should be addressed more clearly. For more information, please contact Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki (tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp).

➤ 3rd ISDR Support Group Meeting

Prior to the 7th ISDR Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting, ADRC participated in the 3rd ISDR Support Group Meeting held on the 9th of April in Geneva, hosted by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Mr. Kenzo Oshima, USG for Humanitarian Affairs, and representatives from more than 20 countries and organizations actively supporting the ISDR activities participated in the meeting. The meeting itself intended to build on the outcomes of the second meeting held in September, 2002 and to identify gaps and priority areas in ISDR activities so that research and activities can move forward. There was wide recognition of the achievements made by the ISDR Secretariat. In particular, increased coordination and collaboration in the field of disaster reduction was noted. With regard to the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, the ISDR Secretariat is developing a work plan leading up to the consolidating event, which will possibly be held in Kobe in January 2005. The plan includes national reports, regional and thematic consultations, and a program of action for disaster risk. For more information, please contact Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki (tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp).

➤ The Opening of 'Hitomiraikan'

The grand opening celebration of 'Hitomiraikan', the second-phase building of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution, was held on April 24th. On the first few floors, 'Hitomiraikan' contains many audio visual exhibitions that draw on the concept of the great value of human life, while several disaster related organizations

including ADRC have moved into the upper levels. After the ceremony, a private tour of ADRC was given to guests of honor such as Mr. Konoike, Minister of State for Disaster Management, and Mr. Idoh, Governor of Hyogo. Mr. Shigeru Itoh, Chairman of ARDC, gave these distinguished guests a brief overview of its mission and activities, deepening their understanding of ADRC.



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

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