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Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

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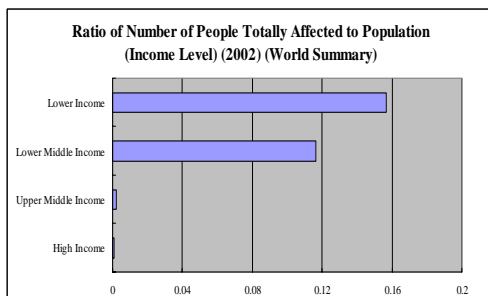
➤ Introducing ADRC's newly published '2002 Natural Disasters Data Book'

There is a trend towards increasing occurrence of natural disasters due to various reasons, such as global environmental changes, environmental and ecological imbalance, increasing population and population density, improper urbanization, deforestation and desertification. Due to the compounding effect of these factors, human suffering, loss of life, and economic losses from natural disasters have also been increasing. Geographic location, socio-economic and cultural dimensions specific to the Asian region are some of the reasons for the great number of affected people in Asia, though the real economic damage is comparatively small. The great amount of human suffering in this region substantially hinders development activities. It is noteworthy to mention that the totally affected population in 2002 is almost one tenth of the world population. Also, the worldwide total economic damages for the year exceeded the GDP of certain developing countries in Asia, Oceania and Africa by many times, thus stressing the importance of holistic natural disaster mitigation strategies. It is evident that the extent of damage by natural disasters is connected to a country's socio-economic level and poverty rate, and that disaster management and post disaster activities are as crucial to sustainable development in the year 2002, as they were in the previous years.

Out of the totally affected people in the world, nearly 55% and 36% of the people were from India and China respectively, thus underscoring

the vulnerability of the Asian region and the importance of the proper counter measures. This was mainly due to the drought in India and flood in China in the year 2002. We can also say that the year 2002 registered a record of economic damage from the Europe (62% of the total world

	Asia	World
Number of Disasters	157 (32%)	487
Sum of Killed	36,390 (78%)	46,527
Sum of Totally Affected	586,144,707 (94%)	621,331,512
Sum of Damage US\$(000's)	7,122,784 (28%)	25,092,688



due to the historic flood in Europe and the consequent damages to the economy and infrastructure of the region. Further, as in the previous years, the majority of human sufferings were in Asia (94%). It can also be seen that 78% of the number of the people killed people in disasters throughout the world are from Asia. This figure includes the death toll by famine in North Korea.

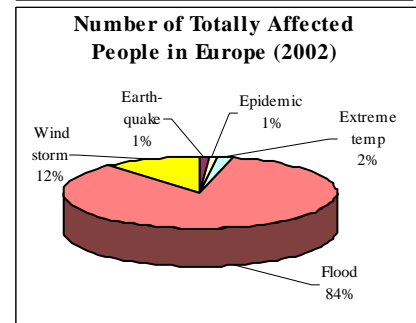
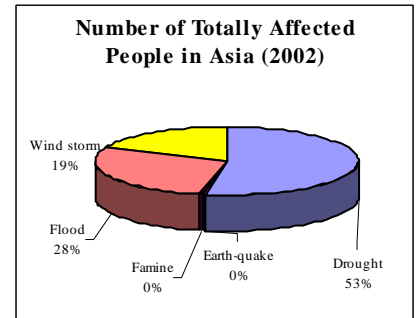
Like many previous years, in year 2002 also, natural disaster impact in 2002 is closely related to poverty, education, quality of health, gender related issues, and changing policy scenarios in relation to global socio-economic characteristics. Human suffering and economic losses undeniably create a development-vacuum that will be hard to fill in the

near future. Though developing countries in regions vulnerable to disasters received many development initiatives and investments, the increased frequency and magnitude of natural catastrophes associated with economic loss and human sufferings have considerably hindered those initiatives.

These generic phenomena can be seen throughout Asia. Obvious vulnerability of this region to geo-physical and hydro-meteorological disasters in terms of demographic, socio-economic, and geo-physical factors justifies the need for prudent development

policies and proactive risk management practices and also further investment for disaster reduction. It also supports the urgent need for country specific and regional initiatives to be integrated into a total disaster risk management approach with ongoing socio-economic development activities.

For more information, please contact Dr. SriGowri Sanker (sanker@adrc.or.jp) or Mr. Fumiaki Yoshimura (yoshimura@adrc.or.jp), editors of ADRC-2002 Natural Disasters Data Book.



➤ International Symposium on Integrated Disaster Risk Management held in Kyoto

International Symposium on Integrated Disaster Risk Management was held from July 3rd to 5th in Kyoto, Japan and 100 participants from Japan, Austria, Germany and other EU countries were actively involved in the symposium. The symposium addressed the broad issues of integrated disaster risk management. Emphasis was put on regional, transboundary issues including: "Regional vulnerability", "Integrated assessment", "Global climate change and weather-related catastrophic risks", and "Flood risk and mitigation". The plenary and parallel sessions were supplemented by interactive sessions, where speakers presented their research findings. ADRC Senior Researcher Dr. Yashiro was invited to make a presentation entitled "An Analysis of Condition Setting in Securitizing Seismic Risk." He described that a seismic portfolio analysis method considering the effect of risk transfer such as securitization is proposed and adopted to a portfolio of seventy-three buildings in Tokyo. The findings of the analysis are: grid, the region used to determine the trigger for the earthquake event, has a relatively large effect on the PML (probable maximum loss). For more info, please contact Dr. Yashiro (yashiro@adrc.or.jp).

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

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