



ADRC Highlights

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April 1, 2004

➤ **World Congress on Natural Disaster Mitigation was held at New Delhi, India, 19-22 February, 2004**

Institutions of Engineers in association with other organizations including Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, in cooperation with the Institution of Engineers of India, organized the World Congress on Natural disaster mitigation in New Delhi, India from 19 to 22 February 2004. The congress was held with an objective of drawing global attention to issues of natural disasters in developing countries, and adverse impact by adopting best practices identified. The congress was one of the preparatory and thematic events towards the UN World Conference in 2005.

In the beginning of the congress, Prime Minister of India, Hon. A. B. Vajpayee delivered the inaugural address.

Other Union cabinet and state ministers also attended and delivered guest lectures. All of them highlighted the importance of disaster impacts in the developing nations and how to mainstream the disaster reduction aspect into the development process. Indian PM rightly highlighted the Indian experience in Gujarat earthquake and effect of recent Iran (Bam) earthquake and the necessity of proposing a comprehensive disaster risk management in the perspective of sustainable development especially in the Asian region without delay.



ADRC was invited to deliver the keynote address in the opening day under the plenary session A: Global Dimensions of Disasters and Impact of Disasters on Development. Dr. SriGowri Sanker, ADRC Researcher, made a presentation regarding the issues of human development, developing economies and disaster impacts. Having stressed the major vulnerabilities of disasters, he also suggested the comprehensive solutions based on the objective of ADRC's TDRM approach under the perspective of mainstreaming the disaster reduction as a tool for new development paradigm. Two Indian Government officials, Mr. V.P. Pasirija and Mr. Om Prakash both of whom are also ADRC former visiting researchers also attended the conference.

The congress was declared close by Deputy Prime Minister of India, Hon. L. K. Advani who also highlighted the major issues discussed in the congress for last four days and announced "the New Delhi Declaration" as the congress output. For more details, please contact Dr. SriGowri Sanker, Researcher at sanker@adrc.or.jp.

➤ **Public Forum " Catastrophic Floods" was held at UNU, Tokyo on March 23**

Commemorating the World Water Day, on March 22nd and the World Meteorological Day on Mar 23rd, a Public Forum titled "Catastrophic Floods: Hidden Vulnerability of Mega Cities" was co-organized by the United Nations University (UNU), Cabinet Office of Japan and UN ISDR Secretariat as well as ADRC, at UNU, Tokyo, Japan on March 23, 2004. In cooperation with NHK, the forum collected over 100 participants. Objectives of the forum were to address the important issue of how to shift a 'fail-safe' approach to 'safe-fail' mechanisms in flood control, and to raise public awareness toward UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005.

Four speakers were Prof. Masaru Morita, Shibaura

Institute of Technology, Mr. Koji Yamamoto, Former Director-General, Japan Meteorological Agency, and Prof. Keiichi Toda, Kyoto University, as well as Ms. Lorna Victoria, Director of



Center for Disaster Preparedness Foundation, Philippines, and they delivered presentations titled "Community role for flood management: Learning from the history", "Flood related prediction technology and trends of global warning", and "Community participation for flood loss reduction" respectively.

In conclusion of the panel discussion, Mr. Yutaka Takahasi, UNU Senior Programme Adviser, pointed out that further urban development should be pursued with having a prediction of whether new type of natural disasters occurs. For more information, please contact Ms Tsunozaki at tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp.

➤ **Recent Natural Disasters in Asia: Earthquake in Turkey**

An earthquake of magnitude of 5.1 on the Richter scale hit the province of Erzurum in Eastern Turkey on 25 March 2004. A total of 4,000 people are said to be affected. The death toll stands at 9 deaths with over 30 others severely injured. (March 26, OCHA Report)

➤ **Announcement**

Senior Researcher Mr. Fumiaki Yoshimura has been transferred to Public Works and Development Dept at Hyogo Prefecture Government as of April 1.

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

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