



ADRC Highlights

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December 16, 2004

➤ **Public Forum: Sharing of Experiences for Safer Asia "TDRM and its Good Practices" to be held on 19 January 2005 in Kobe**

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) will hold a public forum; Sharing of Experiences for Safer Asia "TDRM and its Good Practices", on January 19 (Wed), 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo, co-organized by Hyogo Prefectural government and UN /OCHA Kobe. The Meeting has a great significance for Asian countries to discuss and identify concrete measures and actions effective in reducing risk and vulnerability to disasters, through a reporting session of good practices. In addition, this meeting will be held in the context of the public forum of the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) to be held on January 18 – 22, 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo. Signing ceremony of MoU between UNESCO and ADRC will also be held on site.



Admission is free. Japanese-English simultaneous translation will be provided. For registration, please email or fax your name, address and phone/fax number to the Secretariat (e-mail: goodpractice@adrc.or.jp or fax: +81-78-262-5546,) by 11 January 2005. Please note that your participation to this Forum will be self-supporting. For details, please visit <http://www.adrc.or.jp/events/WCDR/Kobe2005/eng.pdf>.

➤ **International Symposium "Living with Risk" is around the corner**

As another event open to public, ADRC is going to hold an international symposium titled "Living with Risk –disaster reduction for future generations–" at Kobe Portopia Hall, on 17 January 2005, co-organized by the Cabinet Office (Government of Japan), UN/ISDR, Hyogo Prefecture, and UN /OCHA Kobe. Your participation to the Symposium is self-supporting. For details and registration, please visit <http://www.adrc.or.jp/events/WCDR/Pre-symposium/eng.pdf>.

➤ **ADRC Dispatched a Lecturer to International Seminar in Iran**

ADRC has dispatched a lecturer to the international seminar on 'Policies and Practices for the Earthquake Management in Urban Area' organized by UN/OCHA and the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran. The seminar

was held in Tehran on 16-18 November 2004 with the participation of over 150 participants, including authorities in charge of disaster risk management, practitioners, experts and representatives of international organizations from 20 countries. Dr. Kurita, senior researcher of ADRC participated in the seminar as an expert and made a presentation entitled "Japan's experience of the 1995 Kobe earthquake and advancement of design standard".



As the outcome of the seminar, 'Tehran message on earthquake risk reduction for the WCDR and beyond' was compiled in order to deliver the message on the occasion of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction to be held on 18-22 January 2005, Kobe, Japan. It emphasizes on the importance of a variety of subjects such as the general earthquake countermeasures in urban area, building code, seismic retrofitting, women's role in disaster reduction, local capacity building, and cost benefit analysis. For more information, please ask Dr. Kurita (kurita@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **Visitors to ADRC**

□ **Mr. Yoshitaka Murata, the Minister of State for Disaster Management, Gov. of Japan**

On December 6, 2004, Mr. Yoshitaka Murata, Minister of State for Disaster Management, Government of Japan, and his followers paid a visit to ADRC, on occasion of WCDR site inspection.

Executive Director of ADRC, Mr. Kitamoto provided a presentation regarding ADRC mission and activities. In the following, Sri Lankan Researcher Dr. Sanker showed an example of ADRC's effort for response to the 2003 deluge in Sri Lanka. The visitors showed strong interest and deepened their understanding of ADRC's disaster reduction activities.



➤ **Recent Natural Disasters in Asia:**

□ **Floods in the Philippines**

The monsoon rains brought by Tropical Depression "Winnie", triggered massive flooding in the low-lying areas of the northern and central part of the Philippines. The floods caused 1,060 dead, 559 missing (December 14, 2004, OCHA Report). For more info, visit www.adrc.or.jp. (GLIDE: SS-2004-000139-PHL)

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

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