



ADRC Highlights

Vol.109

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

February 1, 2005

➤ **The World Conference on Disaster Reduction Drew to a Successful Close**

The World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) was held from 18 to 22 January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan. The Conference provided a unique opportunity to promote a strategic and systematic approach to reducing vulnerabilities and risks to hazards. It underscored the need for, and identified ways of, building the resilience of nations and communities to disaster.

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) contributed to the WCDR by holding International Symposium, Public Forum and several parallel sessions.

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

In the context of the public forum of the WCDR, ADRC held a public forum; Sharing of Experiences for Safer Asia "TDRM and its Good Practices", co-organized by Hyogo Prefectural government and UN/OCHA Kobe. The forum had a great significance for Asian countries to further promote Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) and identify concrete measures and actions effective in reducing risk and vulnerability to disasters in Asia. Facilitated by Mr. Emmanuel de Guzman, Consultant of ADRC, government officials from Bangladesh, Philippines, Laos, and China, as well as Tajikistan, made presentations on their good practices.



In addition, a special report on the situation of damage caused by the Earthquake and Tsunami was provided by Mr. Sugeng Triutomo, Director, Dept. of Disaster Mitigation, National Disaster Management Coordinating Board, Indonesia..

A signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and ADRC was also conducted for establishing long-standing cooperative ties in the area of natural disaster reduction. Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, expressed his intention to promote the mutual exchange of information, experience and expertise in theory and practice of natural disaster reduction between the two organizations. For more

information on the Public Forum, please ask Mr. Kochi (kochi@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **International Symposium "Living with Risk – disaster reduction for future generations–" was held on 17 January 2005 in Kobe**

ADRC held an international symposium titled "Living with Risk –disaster reduction for future generations–" at Kobe on 17 January 2005, co-organized by the Cabinet Office (Government of Japan), UN/ISDR, UNU, Hyogo Prefecture, and UN/OCHA Kobe, in cooperation with JICA, NHK, IFRC, and WMO. Coinciding with the day of the tenth anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, the symposium attracted more than 600 participants.

Consisting of keynote speeches, video presentation and panel discussion, the symposium provided an opportunity to enhance the understanding of the importance of disaster risk reduction.



H.E. Mr. Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Minister for Food and Disaster Management of Bangladesh made a keynote speech "Challenges for Disaster Management in Bangladesh", followed by President of JICA, Ms. Sadako Ogata's keynote speech under the theme "Integration of disaster risk reduction in broader context of governance". Then, a special report on Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami was made by H. E. Ms. Sumedha Gunawathie Jayasena, Minister for Women Empowerment & Social Welfare of Sri Lanka.

Consecutively, a panel discussion was held with 4 distinguished speakers, Mr. Katsuji Ebisawa, President of NHK, Mr. Jan Egeland, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of WMO and Mr. Markku Niskala, Secretary-General of IFRC. Panelists pointed out the importance of strengthening collaboration among stakeholders, such as local and central governments, UN agencies, international organizations, academia, NGOs, and, ultimately, communities, and developing disaster reduction capability of communities. For more information on the Symposium, please ask Ms. Nakamura (nakamura@adrc.or.jp).



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Published by : **Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)**
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