



ADRC Highlights

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1 May 2005

➤ **Public Symposium on Recovery to be held on 12 May 2005 in Kobe**

“Public Symposium on Recovery –What are the challenges and solutions for effective recovery–” will be held from 14:00 to 17:00 at the Conference Hall, Hyogo House, Kobe on 12 May 2005, co-organized by UNDP, UN/ISDR, UN/OCHA, World Bank (WB), International Labour Organization (ILO), Cabinet Office of Japan, Hyogo Prefectural Government, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). The symposium will be held commemorating the opening for the office of the International Recovery Platform (IRP), a UN initiative in Kobe, Japan. 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: irpseminar@adrc.or.jp or fax: +81-78-262-5546,) by 9 May 2005. Please note that your participation to this seminar will be self-supporting. For more details, please visit http://www.adrc.or.jp/events/irpseminar/e_index.html. (This symposium is a part of the International Seminar on Recovery to be held on 11-13 May 2005 in Kobe.)

➤ **ADRC conducted Field Survey on Awareness of Disaster Risk in southern Sri Lanka**

After the devastating disasters caused by the earthquake and tsunami on 26 December 2004, at the initiative of UNESCO, various plans/activities are currently under discussion for improving disaster management system including development of tsunami early warning system in the countries surrounding the Indian Ocean. Rising public awareness for disaster reduction is the key to the successful implementation of such plans/activities.

From 1 to 14 March 2005, ADRC conducted a field survey on awareness of disaster risk in Galle district, southern part of Sri Lanka, in order to identify current situation and characteristics of community's capacity to respond to natural disasters. The survey was conducted for the purpose of proposing strategy



Children filling in the survey sheets (Habaraduwa)

for dissemination of disaster knowledge and raising public awareness for reducing negative impact of natural hazards.

In cooperation with the local NGO, the ADRC survey team conducted a questionnaire survey of general public, school children of grade 5 (aged 10) and government officials, each of which received 1321, 1112, 110 responses respectively. The team also conducted field survey on the impact by the tsunami of the target area.

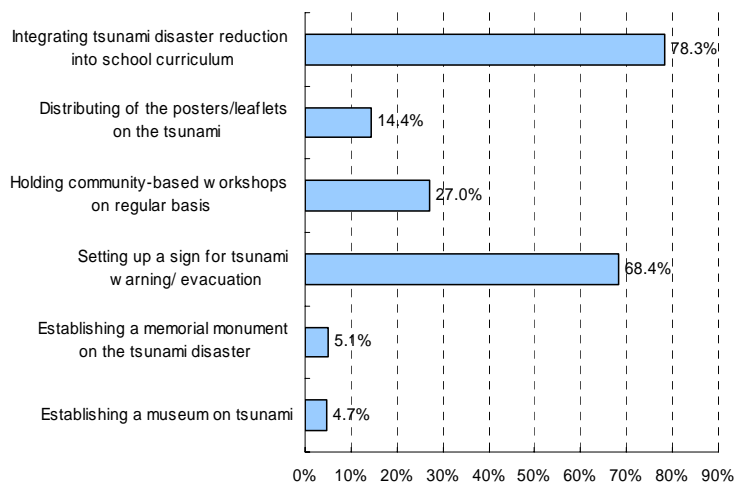
Through the survey, the current situation regarding the capabilities and awareness of residents and school children in disaster reduction was illustrated. It was also found out that a number of local



Interview to the affected people living in the tent (Hikkaduwa)

government officers perceived the lack of coordination body among various organizations in the local government and the need for enhancing capabilities of officers who deal directly with local residents. The more detailed report is now on the ADRC website (http://www.adrc.or.jp/Publications/Srilanka_survey/en/Index.html).

The result of the survey will be applied to the future study on awareness in other countries in the Indian Ocean. For more information, please contact Ms. Kodama (kodama@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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