



ADRC Highlights

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Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

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➤ **Recent Natural Disasters in Asia:**
□ **Floods and Landslides in India**

The heavy rains, which started on 24 July 2005, caused severe floods in the state of Maharashtra and in the coastal region of Goa, India. On 4 August 2005, the death toll amounted to 1,203 in the state of Maharashtra, of which Mumbai is the capital. More than 94cm of rain fell in Mumbai in one day, a record in India's history, causing important havoc in the city. In the village of Juigaon, situated 150 km south of Mumbai, it was estimated that over 100 people had lost their lives in a mudslide on 26 July. Large scale rescue operations took place in the landslide affected district and in other parts of the state.

Concerning the national response, the Indian Government called in the Army, the Navy and Air Forces in order to carry out search and rescue operations. Wherever road access was impossible, the Indian Air Force carried out relief material dropping operations.

The situation report, along with additional information on ongoing emergencies, is available on the ADRC Internet Website at <http://www.adrc.or.jp> (GLIDE: FL-2005-0001250 -IND).

➤ **ADRC Staff Profiles No.20**
□ **Mr. Masahiko Murata, Senior Expert**

As a Senior Expert on international cooperation in recovery, I joined ADRC in April 2005, seconded by the Hyogo Prefectural Government. I am now the first member of the International Recovery Platform (IRP) Kobe Office, which was opened on 11 May 2005. The International Seminar on Post Disaster Recovery followed the inauguration of the IRP Office. Many participants from UN agencies, countries and related organizations took part in the Seminar and jointly launched the IRP. (Please see ADRC Highlights Vol. 116 for details). A Website containing the preliminary database on good practices has been developed and made available at: <http://www.RecoveryPlatform.org/>.



As some of you may know, this is my second time to be with ADRC. I was a Senior Researcher from 1998 to 2001, the first 3 years after its establishment. In the ADRC's first stage, I launched various projects, including the publication of the first issue of the "ADRC Highlights" and the

GLIDE (GLobal unique disaster IDentifier) initiative.

In April 2002, I was assigned to be the first Project Manager of the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI), established by the Hyogo Prefectural Government. I was responsible for promoting human resource development for disaster management, as well as coordinating the Disaster Reduction Alliance (DRA) composed of 13 organizations in the Kobe area, including ADRC.

Using my personal, sad experience of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, my experience of the infrastructure reconstruction as a civil engineer of the Hyogo Prefecture and the global human network that I have built up throughout ADRC and DRI activities, my wish is to make further contributions to disaster risk reduction worldwide. For more information, please contact Mr. Murata at: (murata@recoveryplatform.org)

➤ **Introduction of the CD-ROM (Tsunami Version) of "Exploration for Disaster Prevention" Program**

Since 2003, the General Insurance Association of Japan (GIAJ) has been promoting the "Exploration for Disaster Prevention" Program. In order to draw a lesson from the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 26th 2004, the GIAJ has recently compiled a CD-ROM as a mediatic support of this tsunamis related Program.

The Program was designed as a practical education means for elementary school children. It represents a tool, which will help students to explore their communities more deeply, to locate disaster prevention facilities, and to create their own disaster prevention maps. Moreover, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) has extensively introduced the Program to its member countries, and its importance was stressed by the UNESCO Director General, Mr. Matsuura, during the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe in January 2005.



For any inquiries or information about the CD-ROM, feel free to contact the General Insurance Association of Japan (kokusai@sonpo.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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