



ADRC Highlights Vol.123

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

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➤ **Study Tour on Tsunami Warning System was held in Japan and the US**

ADRC conducted the "Study Tour on National Tsunami Warning System Implementation for High Level Administrators in the Indian Ocean Responsible for Tsunami Warning Activities" organized by UN/ISDR and UNESCO/IOC.

During this study tour, participants are expected to acquire knowledge for identifying components of the national tsunami warning and mitigation systems to be built and strengthened. Study tour was held in two different countries: in Japan, in Tokyo and Shizuoka, on 11-14 July 2005, and in the USA, in Hawaii, on 26-29 July 2005 respectively.

The study tour in Japan was designed as a good example to countries vulnerable to tsunamis and countries with urbanized areas along the coast, while the one in Hawaii focused on an implementation where the risk from distant tsunamis is much greater than the local threat.

□ **The Japan program**

The participating countries in Japan consisted of Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Iran, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Oman, Pakistan, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Thailand. From these 16 countries, 23 high-ranked administrators, responsible for tsunami warning activities, attended the tour.

Throughout the period, various lectures were made by UN/ISDR, UNESCO/IOC, and WMO, International Tsunami Information Center (IOC/ITIC), and Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) from Hawaii.



Tsunami disaster management related ministries in Japan introduced the the basic policy and tsunami warning and mitigation system in Japan. Mr. Masayuki Kitamoto, Executive Director of Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), made a presentation on community based disaster reduction e.g. town watching method.

The participants also visited a water gate and signboards for tsunami disaster reduction in Numazu city, Shizuoka Prefecture, and studied countermeasures against tsunami disasters in local government.

□ **The USA program**

The Hawaii Study Tour started with lectures from various ministries and organizations, such as

International Tsunami Information Center (IOC/ITIC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and United States Geological Survey (USGS). After that, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) presented its work as the international and local tsunami warning center.



Participants also visited Hawaii State Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center, Oahu County Civil Defense Agency and Pacific Tsunami Museum. These site visits helped all the participants deepen their understanding on issuance of tsunami warning, preparedness and response activities of local governments and raising public awareness. Experts from Japan, the Cabinet Office, Japan Meteorological Agency and ADRC, also gave the lectures on Japan Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for comparison.

It is hoped that the study tours, which constitute a good practice for Pacific Ocean disaster prevention, will contribute to establish and promote tsunami early warning systems in the Indian Ocean. For more information, please contact Ms. Nakamura (nakamura@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **Workshop of Asian Disaster Reduction and Relief Network (ADRRN) held in Chennai, India**

On 2-4 August 2005, a regional workshop of Asian Disaster Reduction and Relief Network (ADRRN) was conducted in Chennai, India. Since its creation in February 2002, ADRC and UN/OCHA Kobe have supported the ADRRN activities from the viewpoint of enhancing TDRM (Total Disaster Risk Management), a holistic approach of disaster reduction.

More than 30 members participated in the workshop and discussed about promotion of TDRM and the Indian Tsunami disaster response based on their experience. Besides, members discussed about how to strengthen and promote the future activities of ADRRN. It was agreed that a charter for the network and a working group should be set up. In order for this to be achieved, new committee members were selected. They are Jemilah (MERCY Malaysia) as the Chair person, Manu (SEEDS, India) as the Vice-Chair person, Amod (NSET, Nepal), Milet (Tabang Mindanaw, Philippines) and Naeem (CoAR, Afganistan). It was also agreed that the next ADRRN workshop will be held in Pakistan. 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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