



ADRC Highlights Vol.129

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

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➤ **2nd Report on the South Asia Earthquake**
□ **ADRC joined JICA Needs Assessment Team**

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) dispatched a researcher, Ms. Akiko Nakamura, to Pakistan from 22 October to 4 November 2005. She joined the “JICA Needs Assessment Study Team for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction”, consisting of 3 units and 10 experts from various fields: seismic engineering, earthquake resistance, regional restoration and infrastructure damage.

As a member of the “Affected Area Support Planning Unit,” Ms. Nakamura visited Islamabad, and North-West Frontier Province (Mansehra, Batgram and Balakot), and conducted interviews with related ministries, local governments, and NGOs. In Mansehra, the district hospital was heavily damaged. More than 300 injured people were forced to camp out in 134 tents where medicine, food and clothes are insufficient. In addition, most of the masonry buildings and adobe houses collapsed, which caused a great number of injured who currently need physical and mental care.



Ms. Nakamura stressed the importance of collaboration among various stakeholders such as the national government, communities and NGOs for prompt dissemination of knowledge on earthquake-proof structures. She also emphasized the need to raise public awareness and cited ADRC's past project as an effective tool. Based on these perspectives, her recommendations include the need to produce a user-friendly leaflet, and hold a comprehensive workshop. For more information, please contact Ms. Nakamura (nakamura@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **Regional Workshop for Central Asia and Russia was held in Astana, Kazakhstan**

The Regional Workshop of Central Asian Countries and Russia on “Building Capacity and Preparedness of Population to Emergencies” was held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan on 2-3 November 2005, under the initiative of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and UNDP of Kazakhstan, supported by UNDP/BCPR and UN/OCHA.

The main objective of the Workshop was to promote the exchange of experiences and knowledge among countries in the region on the field of effective management of emergencies, to further disseminate and replicate efficient risk management and early warning methodologies and technologies. More than 50 representatives from the Central Asian countries, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan,

Uzbekistan, and Russia, as well as UN agencies, regional organizations and NGOs participated in the Workshop and actively



discussed the issues of common interest in the field. The Workshop produced recommendations to be translated into action by the participating countries and organizations to enhance the capacity of the communities to deal with disasters. For more information, please contact ADRC Senior Researcher, Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki (tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **ADRC Staff Profiles (No.22)**
□ **Mr. Takaaki Shiratori, Senior Researcher**

Transferred from Japan's major construction company named Takenaka Corporation, I joined ADRC as a Senior Researcher in September 2005. At the time of Takenaka, I worked in the Structural Design Department for more than 30 years. I built up my skills and knowledge in the field of architecture and construction, as a structural designer, technical advisor, facility manager and supervisor. Construction sites where I was involved, both in Japan and overseas, include a hotel in Malaysia's Penang Island. These experiences allowed me to have qualifications including first grade architect, first grade superintendent of the building construction, first grade superintendent of the civil engineering, and so on. Besides architecture, I worked with Geo-space Engineering Center in Tokyo for three years and supported research projects at the secretariat of research councils and committees.



Two days after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, I reached Kobe by a chartered boat from Osaka port and conducted damage assessment of buildings. I still clearly remember the great shock when I saw the devastated city with many of the buildings totally collapsed. Fortunately, a hotel, in which I participated in the structural design, had suffered little damage. This generated a compliment from the clients.

The principle of structural design and construction of buildings is to protect human lives and reduce the damage to property in case of a disaster. In this sense, I can say I have worked for disaster reduction. I would like to contribute to ADRC's activities using the skills and knowledge that I acquired on architecture and construction.

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

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