



ADRC Highlights

Vol.131

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

January 1 & 16, 2006



Greetings for the New Year 2006.



I would like to wish a very happy new year to the "ADRC Highlights" readers.

A lot of natural disasters occurred and caused damage in Asia last year like before. It breaks our hearts to see the affected people so unhappy. Damage from natural disasters ought to be reduced, but devastating disasters happen again and again... Since Hyogo, ADRC's location, was hit by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake 11 years ago, we can really understand their suffering.

At the beginning of a new year, we, ADRC staff members, make up our mind afresh to facilitate further multinational cooperation for disaster reduction towards safe, peaceful, and comfortable lives in Asia.

Masayuki Kitamoto, Executive Director of ADRC

➤ **Public Symposium on Post Disaster Recovery to be held on 19 Jan 2006 in Kobe**

□ **Lessons on recovery from recent disasters**

Public Symposium on Post Disaster Recovery "Lessons on recovery learned from recent major disasters" will be held from 14:00 to 17:15 at the International Conference Center, Kobe, Hyogo on 19 January 2006, co-organized by IRP Secretariat, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), Cabinet Office of Japan, Hyogo Prefectural Government, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA) Kobe.

The objectives of the Symposium will be to report the activities carried out in the framework of the IRP, to learn from the past post disaster experiences including good practices and not-so-good practices, and to identify the challenges faced in the recovery process of the recent

major disasters.

For registration, please send your name, job title and organization to IRP Secretariat at irp@recoveryplatform.org by 16 January 2006. Please note that your participation to this seminar will be self-supporting. For

****** Programme ******

Keynote Speech:

Prof. Ian Davis, Cranfield University, UK

Panel Discussion:

Mr. Syed Yasin Ahmed, Pakistan
Mr. Suporn Ratananakin, Thailand
Mr. Masahiko Murata, IRP Secretariat / ADRC
Dr. Fouad Bendimerad, Kobe University / EMI
Mr. Puji Pujiono, UN/OCHA Kobe

Comments from:

Mr. Salvano Briceno, UN/ISDR, and Prof. Ian Davis

Coordinated by:

Mr. Anil K. Sinha, IRP Secretariat (proposed)

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

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more information, please visit <http://recoveryplatform.org/> or contact Kochi (kochi@adrc.or.jp).

➤ Asia-Pacific Core Member Meeting on Disaster Reduction Technology List

Organized with the support of the National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), an NGO in Nepal, the Core Member Meeting for Asia-Pacific region (CMM II) was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 14-15 November 2005, attended by representatives from UN agencies, NGOs, researchers, and government officials from the Asia-Pacific Region.

CMM is the regional workshop of the project, namely "International Framework for Development of Disaster Reduction Technology List on Implementation Strategies", which is a follow-up activity for the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) adopted during the WCDR held in Kobe, Japan in January 2005. Jointly launched by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Technology (NIED), Japan, and UN/ISDR Secretariat, this project ultimately aims to facilitate information dissemination on disaster reduction technologies with a solid notion of implementation strategies through a web database. The project leader is Dr. Hiroyuki Kameda, NIED.

Discussions during the meeting include: (1) ongoing efforts on disaster reduction, (2) challenges in compiling information and establishing database (e.g. criteria for selection, methodology, etc), and (3) possible contribution from participants. ADRC's Executive Director, Masayuki Kitamoto, introduced "the Total Disaster Risk Management: Good Practices" handbook, which ADRC published at WCDR, and expressed that ADRC could contribute to the project through its member countries and the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN). For more information, please contact Mr. Kitamoto (kitamoto@adrc.or.jp).

➤ International Conference: 250th Anniversary of the 1755 Lisbon Earthquake held in Portugal

From 1 to 4 November 2005, International Conference: 250th Anniversary of the 1755 Lisbon Earthquake was held in Lisbon, Portugal. At the occasion of this 250th anniversary of the earthquake, participants from all over the world such as scientists, engineers, historians, philosophers, urban planners, architects, economists, policy makers gathered and fostered an

integrated view on our global perception of natural disasters and how must society deal with them. In each session, they had intense discussions about cutting edge studies.

Dr. Kurita, ADRC Senior Researcher, participated in the session: "Social-economic impact on communities exposed to earthquakes and tsunamis". The title of the presented paper was "Survey on Tsunami Risk Awareness in Sri Lanka". The authors carried out a questionnaire survey on tsunami awareness in Sri Lanka with 2,500 samples. The purposes of the survey are to assess and evaluate the current situation and community's capacity to respond to natural disasters, and to propose a strategy for the dissemination of tsunami knowledge while raising public awareness on tsunami. In this study, the public awareness about tsunami risks in the affected area of Sri Lanka is reached quantitatively. Also, the situation and issues in schools and disaster related institutions are made available to the public. For more information, please contact Dr. Kurita (kurita@adrc.or.jp).

➤ ADRC Staff Profiles (No.23)

□ Mr. Hajime Nakano, Senior Researcher

I joined ADRC as a Senior Researcher in October 2005, dispatched from Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. In that company, I was involved in many projects mainly related to energy and environment. Focusing on the Asian region, I took part in several projects in Singapore including the grassroots Senoko Gasworks project. Through these projects, I learned many things, especially the importance of infrastructure preparation. I also realized that energy issues may have an impact even on national security. At the time of the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, Osaka Gas was in the face of a perceived unprecedented crisis, as we had to stop supplying gas for about 860,000 customers. However, after fighting through various obstacles under severe conditions, we could make a full restoration of gas supply safely and quickly. With these precious experiences, from which we learned a lot, Osaka Gas has been strengthening further disaster prevention measures.



My main role in ADRC started with seminars and conferences related work, including disaster management seminar and annual conference. It is very important to accumulate valuable experiences from natural disaster in each country, and to share such information and knowledge in order to get prepared for the next disaster. I would like to contribute to disaster reduction in the Asian region through the various activities in ADRC.

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