



ADRC Highlights Vol.132

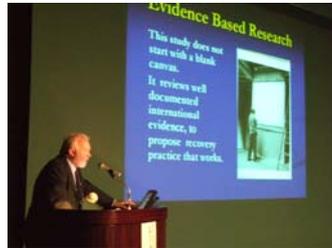
Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

1 February 2006

➤ Public Symposium on Post Disaster Recovery expected IRP activities

Public Symposium on Post Disaster Recovery “Lessons on recovery learned from recent major disasters” was held on 19 January 2006 in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan. It was 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. It attracted more than 180 participants from 21 countries.

Consisting of a keynote speech, some video presentations and a panel discussion, the Symposium provided a unique opportunity to learn from the past post disaster experiences and to identify the challenges faced in the recovery process of the recent major disasters.



In the keynote speech, Prof. Ian Davis, Cranfield University, UK, spoke under the title of “Learning from Disaster Recovery”, and pointed out that “too much relief” is one of some impediments to recovery.

Mr. Masahiko Murata, Recover Expert of IRP Secretariat, reported the activities carried out in the framework of the IRP including database of good practices.

Consecutively, a panel discussion was held, coordinated by Mr. Anil K. Sinha, Programme Advisor, IRP Secretariat. Each panelist made a presentation on their strategies to reduce potential risk and reconstruct safer and more secure society for future generations, and expressed expectations on future IRP activities. Mr. Salvano Briceno, UN/ISDR’s Director, told that there are a lot of resources and coordination of efforts represents the main difficulty. He also told that IRP is a very promising initiative to achieve this, and HFA (Hyogo Framework for Action) is a tool for everybody at any level for every day life.



A signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Hyogo and Sri Lanka was also conducted as a donation for the victims of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Disaster.

With much cooperation of “117 Broadband TV”, the Symposium was filmed, and can be viewed through the IRP website (<http://recoveryplatform.org/>). For more information on the Symposium and IRP, please contact Mr. Murata (murata@recoveryplatform.org).

➤ ADRC was invited to Workshop organized by Denmark and UN/ISDR

The workshop “Strengthening the Resilience of Local Communities in Coastal Areas to Water Related Natural Disasters” was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 16-18 November 2005. It was co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and UN/ISDR and attended by representatives from national governments, community level NGOs and experts working in the fields of humanitarian, disaster management and development affairs. This workshop geographically focused on six countries such as Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand in South and South East Asia, which were affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004. The workshop intended to support the implementation of HFA (Hyogo Framework for Action) 2005-2015, which was adopted in the WCDR held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, in January 2005.

Dr. Tetsushi Kurita, Senior Researcher of ADRC, was invited to the workshop as an expert from overseas. In the plenary session, he



made a presentation on the ADRC’s tsunami-related activities including survey projects on tsunami risk awareness in Sri Lanka and the Maldives and introduced the Town Watching method as an effective tool for enhancing public awareness in communities. From the results of the questionnaire survey, he also emphasized the importance of the disaster education for children to reduce the disaster risks.

In the working group session, participants were divided into four groups and formed 23 recommendations for good practices, which were prioritized by “the Dot Exercise” (Vote by the participants). The recommendation recognized as most important was that “Disaster Risk should be integrated into education at all levels and public awareness initiatives and including school curricula, dissemination of knowledge, especially local knowledge”. The workshop details are available at <http://www.dhi.dk/resilience>. For inquiries on Dr. Kurita’s presentation, please contact kurita@adrc.or.jp.

➤ Recent Natural Disasters in Asia:

❑ Cold wave in Russia

Severe cold weather gripping the most parts of Russia has killed at least 23 people in Moscow since 17 January 2006, according to the Itar-Tass News Agency’s report dated 22 Jan 2006. For more information, please visit www.adrc.or.jp (GLIDE: CW-2006-000006-RUS).

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

Published by : [Asian Disaster Reduction Center \(ADRC\)](http://www.adrc.or.jp/)
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