



ADRC Highlights

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➤ ADRC has a New Executive Director

The Chairman of ADRC, Prof. Shigeru Itoh, appointed Mr. Koji Suzuki as the new Executive Director of ADRC as of 1 April 2006. Mr. Suzuki has held various positions in the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan, and was in charge of the Asian Natural Disaster Reduction Conference in Kobe in late 1995, hosted by Prime Minister of Japan. Mr. Masayuki Kitamoto, the Former Executive Director, on the other hand, was requested by the Government of Japan to assume a post in the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. Mr. Kitamoto wishes to take this opportunity to express his appreciation for the warm support you have extended to ADRC during his assignment, and expects continuous cooperation with ADRC.

➤ ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report □ Ms. Lyudmila Harutyunyan, Armenia

The Republic of Armenia is a typical mountainous country situated in the southern Caucasus, with the average elevation of 1,800 meters above sea level. Armenia is deemed one of the most disaster prone countries in the world. It is prone to almost all types of disasters including earthquakes, landslides, hail storms, droughts, strong winds and floods.

I belong to the National Survey for Seismic Protection (NSSP), an agency functioning under the Ministry of Territorial Administration. NSSP conducts the overall earthquake disaster reduction in the areas of seismic hazard assessment, preparedness of central and local authorities, development of early warning systems and public education. Recently, national programs on raising public awareness have been developed and corresponding training programs are being conducted in all public schools, colleges and higher educational institutions nationwide.

Three months have already passed since I joined ADRC as a VR. I have visited governmental offices, schools, hospitals and museums in Japan. My experience at ADRC is of particular importance not only for my work in NSSP but also for Armenia. I am eager to achieve our common goal: natural disaster risk reduction. At ADRC, I would like to further study the disaster management system and relevant political arrangements in Japan, so that I can make a valuable contribution to disaster risk reduction in Armenia.



➤ JICA Seminar on Disaster Management 2005

ADRC conducted a JICA seminar on disaster management from 16 January to 24 February 2006, as the sixth yearly training seminar since 2000. This year, 10 trainees were invited from 9 countries: Cameroon, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Pakistan, Philippines, Tajikistan, Thailand, Venezuela and Zambia.

In order to improve their disaster management capabilities by learning Japanese disaster management system, the program consisted of lectures focused on the following topics: (1) Basic concepts of disaster management, (2) Disaster management of the Japanese central government, (3) Disaster management of the Japanese local governments (4) Role of private sector and mass media, (5) Countermeasures by disaster types, (6) International cooperation for disaster reduction, and (7) Thematic disaster management.

At the beginning of the seminar, the trainees made a presentation on disaster situation and disaster management system. Then, to learn comprehensively the Japanese disaster management system, they visited various ministries and organizations including Cabinet Office, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, and Japan Meteorological Agency. At local level, they were given lectures at the Hyogo Prefecture's state-of-the-art Disaster Management Center.

Among the characteristics of the seminar was to have various opportunities to learn about disaster management at community level. "Town Watching and Hazard Mapping" exercise was a good example. The trainees walked around one of Kobe's areas where they observed the risks. Upon returning from the town watching, the trainees learned how to develop and create a hazard map. They also had an opportunity to participate in the public symposium held by International Recovery Platform (IRP), where they learned the importance of international cooperation activities in post disaster recovery.

During the last week of the seminar, the trainees reported on their future action plans, based on what they had learned in Japan. ADRC will continue such a program in the coming years. For more information, please contact Mr. Hajime Nakano (nakano@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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