



# ADRC

## Highlights

Vol.138

### Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

1 May 2006

➤ **Greetings from Executive Director of ADRC,  
Mr. Koji Suzuki**

It is with great pleasure that I have assumed the position of Executive Director of ADRC as of 1 April 2006.

Complex and diverse natural disasters including windstorms, tsunamis and earthquakes occur recurrently in Asia, driving people to despair and destroying people's property in a moment. The economic loss of a disaster may even exceed the GDP of a country.

Established in Kobe in 1998, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) has conducted various activities, such as information sharing, human resource development and building community capabilities, with the encouragement and support from member countries, advisor countries, related organizations and the local host, Hyogo prefectural government. Recent disaster reduction activities include collecting good practices, disseminating unique disaster identification number, and promoting cooperative projects.



I would like to devote myself to implementing programs and activities, with needs-oriented approach, in order to contribute sustainable development in Asia.

(Brief background of Mr. Suzuki)

Obtained BA in Agriculture at Tokyo University, SIPA (School of International and Public Affairs), MIA at Columbia University, NY. Joined the National Land Agency of Japan, currently the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) in 1987.

➤ **Third International Conference on Early Warning (EWC-III) held in Bonn**

The Third International Conference on Early Warning (EWC-III) with a theme "From concept to action" was held in Bonn, Germany under the auspices of the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) from 27 to 29 March 2006, organized by the German Government. The Conference gathered more than 1,250 participants from 132 countries and the

active discussion among them contributed to the translation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) into concrete measures.

The Conference was opened by Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Jan Egeland, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. The Vice-President of the



World Bank for Infrastructure Network, Ms. Katherine Sierra, delivered a keynote address emphasizing the need for the development community to adopt an integrated risk management approach and to move from concept to action in order to fulfill the objectives of the HFA. Mr. Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) opened the Scientific and Technical Symposium

The UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, former US President W.J. Clinton, addressed the Conference as a special guest and held a High-level Roundtable on the Indian Ocean Tsunami, inviting representatives from the countries affected by the tsunami and the donor community. In his address, President Clinton stressed the importance of community level preparedness as well as the need to use the existing early warning knowledge.

The Conference produced a "Compendium of Early Warning Projects" consisting of project proposals submitted to the EWC-III, and a tool for practitioners entitled "Developing Early Warning Systems: A Key Check list" which would be useful for the development of an early warning system.

As a representative of ADRC, Senior Researcher Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki participated in the Conference and presented a poster on a project entitled "Building Tornado Warning System for Bangladesh – coping with neglected disaster". For further information on the EWC-III, please visit the Conference website ([www.ewc3.org](http://www.ewc3.org)).

➤ **ACDR 2006 documents are now on the web**

As informed earlier, the conference summary and other related documents of ACDR 2006 held in Seoul, Republic of Korea in March, are now available on our website. Please go to <http://web.adrc.or.jp/acdr2006seoul/index.html>.

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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