



# ADRC

## Highlights

Vol.141

### Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

16 June 2006

#### ➤ Project for Promoting Community-Based Disaster Reduction in Sri Lanka

The survey of tsunami awareness conducted in Sri Lanka in March 2005 reaffirmed the necessity of developing community-based disaster risk management practices. As a result of the survey, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) started a one-year project in Galle, Sri Lanka in April 2006, which aims to increase disaster reduction capacity at the community level.

This project has two main components: trainings for local government officials at the district level ("trainer trainings") and trainings for members of the community conducted by local government officials who have been trained in their own divisions.

A trainer training session at the district level was conducted on 18-20 April 2006 in Wakwella, Galle District. It was attended by approximately 100 local government officials and NGO personnel. On the first day of the workshop, experts from Sri Lanka and Japan were invited to give lectures on



disaster prevention. On the last two days, the workshop focused on "Town Watching," a method of identifying the underlying risks in communities through the creation of hazard maps and the formulation of effective disaster

countermeasures through discussions among stakeholders, including government officials, experts, and members of the community.

Participants were divided into 10 groups and walked around central Galle, examining positive and negative characteristics of the city from the viewpoint of disaster prevention. The participants actively engaged in the exercise and created sophisticated hazard maps. In addition, each group made crafted presentations at the end of the exercise.

After this trainer training, pilot workshops for community members were conducted in two divisions. These workshops were led by the local government officials who had participated in the previous training session, and were attended primarily by community leaders. In both workshops, the participants gained a good grasp of the issues and problems at hand, and achieved important results (hazard map creation, identification of issues, and action plan compilation).

The ADRC plans to hold up to 100 community-based workshops in Galle, which are expected to benefit 4,000 people. We hope that this project will help enhance the ability of communities in Sri Lanka to engage in disaster reduction efforts. We also hope that community-based disaster reduction activities will take root throughout the country, thereby contributing to sustainable development nationwide.

For more information, please contact Dr. Kurita ([kurita@adrc.or.jp](mailto:kurita@adrc.or.jp)) or Mr. Ikeda ([ikeda@adrc.or.jp](mailto:ikeda@adrc.or.jp)).



\*This project is being supported by Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects provided by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

#### ➤ ADRC Staff Profiles No. 24

##### □ Mr. Kiyoshi KAYASHIMA, Researcher of IRP



I joined the ADRC from the Hyogo Prefectural Government in April, since which time I have been working as a researcher for the International Recovery Platform (IRP) secretariat.

When I worked for Hyogo, I was involved in various fields such

as international relations, environmental planning, and welfare. Although this is my first time working in a disaster-related field, my personal experience has made me deeply aware of the importance of disaster prevention efforts. My father was killed and my house destroyed by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

To promote disaster risk reduction and ensure the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), the IRP is dedicated to comprehensively addressing the issues inherent in the overall recovery process and to linking disaster reduction efforts with sustainable development.

From 30 May to 4 June 2006, I had a chance to participate in an ADRC mission to conduct an assessment of the damage and recovery needs in the areas affected by the Central Java Earthquake that occurred on 27 May. In villages where more than 90% of the houses had collapsed, villagers were very interested in rebuilding their houses to be earthquake resistant, but they did not know how. Many simply wanted to rebuild their houses as quickly as possible, even if it meant using the traditional methods that would leave their new homes vulnerable to earthquakes. This made me keenly aware of the dilemma between integrating risk reduction in the recovery process and the need to rebuild houses quickly.

I hope I can contribute to "better recovery" though my assignment at IRP.

#### ➤ Recent Natural Disasters in Asia: Earthquake in Java, Indonesia

On 27 May 2006, an earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale (USGS) struck the central Java region of Indonesia (GLIDE: EQ-2006-000064-IDN). According to the OCHA's situation report No. 14, the death toll stands at 5,749 and the number of injuries at 38,568.

#### ➤ Announcement

Dr. Tetsushi Kurita, Senior Researcher at the ADRC transferred to TEPCO on 31 May 2006. At the same time, Dr. Kenpei Kojika from TEPCO was appointed to serve as a Senior Researcher at the ADRC on 5 June 2006.

If you have comments or questions regarding this newsletter, please contact the ADRC.

Published by : Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)

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