



ADRC Highlights

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➤ **Public Forum "Winning Against Disasters – Roles of Education, Development and Community Action for Sustainable Development" is around the corner**

The ADRC is going to hold a public forum entitled "Winning Against Disasters – Roles of Education, Development and Community Action for Sustainable Development" at U Thant International Conference Hall, UN House in Tokyo from 14:00-17:30 on 19 October 2006. The event is being held in cooperation with the United Nations University (UNU), Cabinet Office of Japan, UN/ISDR, UNESCO, and the World Bank.

The forum will explore the roles of education, infrastructure development, and community action in addressing disaster risk reduction issues. Simultaneous Japanese-English interpretation will be provided. Admission is free. To register, please email your name, address and phone/fax number to octoberforum@adrc.or.jp by 12 October 2006. For more information, please visit http://www.adrc.or.jp/events/octoberforum/October_Forum_E.htm.

➤ **JICA's Trainer's training for the Disaster Mitigation Training Project**

In cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the ADRC conducted a Turkish Disaster Mitigation Training Course from 21 to 26 August 2006, as part of the Disaster Mitigation Training Project that was launched by the JICA Turkey Office in FY 2005. While a training course offered last February was primarily for experts in the fields of urban planning,



water-related disasters, and psychology and disaster management, this training course gave engineers an opportunity to visit Japan to learn about Japanese disaster reduction systems and technologies that can be utilized in engineer

training programs to be conducted in Turkey.

The training event featured presentations by experts in various fields, including geotechnical and structural engineering, urban planning, fire disaster management, and local government disaster management systems. All the trainees showed a significant interest in the high level of disaster-related expertise and awareness in Japan, and

learned a great deal from the lectures provided.

On the last day of the training course, the trainees visited a high school in Himeji that had been seismically reinforced by a major Japanese construction company, where they learned about the techniques used in the retrofitting process. This was an invaluable opportunity for the trainees, given Turkey's vulnerability to earthquakes and the country's increasing awareness of the importance of seismic retrofitting. The trainees are excited to utilize what they learned in Japan to contribute to the creation of disaster-resilient communities in Turkey.

The ADRC wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to all of those who contributed to the success of this training course. For further information on this course, please contact Mr. Kenpei Kojika (kojika@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **Recent Natural Disasters in Asia**
□ **Flood in Northern Lao PDR**

The Provincial Authority of Luangnamtha Province in northern Lao PDR reported that heavy rains on 7 August 2006 caused flash flooding in the Luangnamtha District (Luangnamtha Province). The flooding caused tremendous damage to both farmlands and the local population, impacting 18 villages, 2,474 families, and 13,424 individuals. One person was killed in this event.



The Provincial Disaster Management Committee (DMC) acted quickly to help victims evacuate to safer areas and provided some relief assistance, such as drinking water and food. At present, the committee is requesting 298 million kip in government assistance to buy more food, drinking water, and medicine.

With the water now receding, the provincial DMC will collect data and provide the necessary information to the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), especially data on agricultural damage. The government is also considering allocating relief funds to help disaster victims in the affected area.

In addition, the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) has been cooperating with internal and external agencies to provide assistance to victims.

This report was provided by Ms. Bouasy Thammasack, Information Officer of NDMO, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Lao PDR, and former ADRC Visiting Researcher.

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

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