



ADRC Highlights

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➤ ADRC's Cooperative Project with Armenia

On 16 November 2006, the Armenian National Survey for Seismic Protection (NSSP) and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) held a seminar entitled "Knowledge, Education and Training for Earthquake Disaster Awareness and Preparedness in Public Schools in Syunik Prefecture, Armenia" in Kapan, the capital of Syunik Prefecture. This was a cooperative project between the ADRC and the government of Armenia.



Like Japan, Armenia is prone to earthquakes. The Spitak Earthquake, which hit the northern part of the country in 1988, caused approximately 25,000 deaths and left 514,000 people homeless. Various types of recovery projects

have been undertaken in Armenia since then, but very few have been conducted in the southern part of the country, including Syunik Prefecture. Given this, a seminar targeting school teachers and public school children was held in this prefecture with the aim of raising awareness of earthquake disasters. Mr. Taisuke Matsuzaki of the Kobe City Board of Education was invited to serve as a lecturer.

Following opening remarks from Dr. Alvaro Antoniyan, President of the NSSP, Mr. Matsuzaki gave a series of lectures on disaster prevention education. His morning lecture addressed the mechanisms of earthquake propagation and included school-related stories from the time of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. His target audience was about 50 school children, 13-15 years old. In the afternoon, Mr. Matsuzaki used a simulation exercise to teach 25 school teachers about earthquake response measures.

The participants were highly interested in these lectures, as they were being given by a Japanese expert who had experienced a major earthquake, and they asked many questions. They explained to us that the people of Armenia are not often directly injured by earthquakes, but that deaths tend to be caused by buildings that collapse as a result of earthquakes. When thinking about earthquake prevention for Armenia, we should keep in mind that the Japanese model of using schools as evacuation sites may not be applicable here. It is important that we consider the specific needs of the country.

The ADRC would like to further improve and promote knowledge about earthquake disaster risk reduction in Armenia by working closely with the NSSP. For more information on this cooperative project, please contact Mr. Makoto Ikeda (iked@adrc.or.jp).

➤ Disaster Education Project in Galle, Sri Lanka

The District Workshop on Disaster Education in Schools was held in Galle, Sri Lanka from 6 to 8 December 2006, as part of a cooperative program between the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the ADRC entitled "Enhancing Natural Disaster Education in Schools in Galle District, Sri Lanka."

This workshop was attended by about 50 school principals and teachers from 15 schools in Galle District, and about 15 officials from the Southern Provincial Department of Education and other relevant organizations in Sri Lanka.

This teacher training workshop aimed to (1) provide teachers with information on natural disasters and disaster prevention, and raise their awareness of the importance of teaching children about natural disasters, (2) enable teachers to conduct lessons on disaster prevention at their own schools, and (3) enable teachers to train other teachers in their school communities after this workshop.

Mr. Koji Kanda, from the Hyogo Prefectural Board of Education, was invited to the workshop. He introduced the fundamentals of disaster education and how to teach school children about natural disasters and disaster prevention.

On the second day of the workshop, we visited Hapugala School, where Mr. Kanda conducted model lessons on "Earthquakes and Tsunamis" and "Floods, Sediment Disasters, and Thunderstorms" for eighth grade students.



His lessons were observed by the workshop participants. The school children were very interested in learning about natural disasters and tried to figure out how to answer the questions posed by Mr. Kanda, such as "What should you take with you when you evacuate?" based on their memories of the massive 2004 tsunami.

On the last day of the workshop, the participants were divided into groups to discuss and develop lessons on natural disasters utilizing what they had learned over the course of the workshop. We made sure to instruct them to adapt their lessons to reflect Sri Lanka's culture and attitudes. After practicing, all of the groups demonstrated the lessons they developed in front of all the other participants. All of the groups demonstrated very impressive and unique lessons that give us confidence in the success of this whole project.

The next program (pilot lessons) will be conducted by these workshop participants at 15 schools in February. For more information on this project, please contact Ms. Maki Yoshida (yoshida@adrc.or.jp).

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

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