



ADRC

Highlights

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➤ JICA Seminar on Disaster Management 2006

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted the "JICA Seminar on Disaster Management JFY2006" from 15 January to 23 February 2007. This was the seventh annual training seminar since they were launched 2000. This year, the seminar was jointly conducted with the "Seminar on Disaster Management and Preparedness in Southeast European Countries," and 19 trainees were invited to participate from 14 countries: Colombia, Cook Islands, Jamaica, Mexico, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela, Zambia, Serbia, and Macedonia.

Designed to improve the disaster management capabilities of the participating countries by teaching them about Japanese disaster management systems, the program consisted of lectures focused on the following topics: (1) basic concepts of disaster management, (2) disaster management approach of the Japanese central government, (3) disaster management approaches of Japanese local governments (4) role of the private sector and mass media, (5) countermeasures for different disaster types, (6) international cooperation for disaster reduction, and (7) thematic disaster management.

At the beginning of the seminar, each trainee gave a presentation on the disaster situation and disaster management systems in their own countries. Then, to gain a comprehensive understanding of



Japanese disaster management systems, they visited various ministries and organizations including the Cabinet Office, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, and the Japan Meteorological Agency. At the local level, they attended lectures at Hyogo Prefecture's state-of-the-art Disaster Management Center.

One purpose of the seminar was to provide opportunities to learn about disaster management at the community level. The "Town Watching and Hazard Mapping" exercise was a good example of this. The trainees walked around a neighborhood in Kobe and identified the risks. Upon returning from the town watching activity, the trainees learned how to develop and create a hazard map. They also had an opportunity to participate in the International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake held by the International Recovery Platform (IRP), where they were able to learn about

the recovery efforts taken following large-scale disasters and about international cooperation in promoting the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

During the last week of the seminar, the trainees reported on their future action plans based on what they had learned in Japan. The ADRC will continue to hold this seminar in the coming years. For more information, please contact ADRC Senior Researcher, Mr. Hajime Nakano (nakano@adrc.or.jp).

➤ High-Level Workshop for the Typhoon Committee Held in Macao

A high-level workshop for the Typhoon Committee (TC) was held at the Department of Meteorology and Geophysics of the Macao Special Administrative Region on 12-13 February 2007. The workshop was the first gathering to be held since the TC Secretariat was transferred to Macao.

The workshop began with an opening address by Mr. Olavo Rasquinho, the new Executive Director of the TC, followed by messages from the UN Undersecretary General and the Director-General of the WMO. The first session consisted of an overview of the TC's Strategic Plan and expressions of support for the plan by UNESCAP, WMO, and the ADRC. A signing ceremony for the agreement between the government of China (Macao Special Administrative Region) and the TC regarding the transfer of the secretariat was also held at the new office.

On the second day, representatives from the Republic of Korea and China, and Mr. Koji Suzuki, Executive Director of the ADRC, gave presentations on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, Beijing Action for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the HFA, respectively. A brainstorming session was then held where participants could share their views on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and other important issues.

The workshop emphasized the necessity of implementing GLIDE numbers, which the ADRC has long been promoting, of upgrading the TC's website, and of strengthening resource mobilization for TC activities, as well as of training personnel in meteorological forecasting.

Mr. Roman L. Kintanar from the Philippines, who had long served as the Executive-Director of the TC, was invited to this workshop as special guest and provided a history of the TC's activities. Mr. Mannoji, Head of the National Typhoon Center of the Japan Meteorological Agency, gave a presentation on a study on projected typhoon routes. For more information, please contact Mr. Suzuki (suzukik@adrc.or.jp).