



ADRC Highlights

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➤ **Disaster Education Program in Galle District, Sri Lanka**

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and the Southern Provincial Department of Education of Sri Lanka, with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), conducted a disaster education program in Galle District, Sri Lanka. The main objective of the program, as a capacity building strategy, was to raise the school community's awareness of various types of natural disasters and of the value of disaster reduction. The program was conducted as follows:

- (1) First Consultative Meeting on the Development of a Curriculum for Disaster Education
- (2) District Workshop (Trainers' Training)
- (3) Implementation of Pilot Lessons (by 15 pilot schools)
- (4) Second Consultative Meeting on the Development of Curriculum for Disaster Education

During the First Consultative Meeting, the ADRC along with relevant officials from the Department of Education, and disaster education experts in Sri Lanka and Japan discussed what kind of disaster education should be promoted in Galle District. The ADRC then held the District Workshop for four school principals and teachers from each of the 15 pilot schools. This workshop trained them to be able to conduct disaster education at their own schools and also to be leaders in the promotion of disaster education in Galle District (see Vol. 155).

After learning about natural disasters and disaster education during the 3-day workshop, teachers from each pilot school conducted pilot lessons at their schools. Two teachers from each of the 422 schools in Galle District were invited to participate in one of the pilot lessons organized by the 15 pilot schools. The pilot lesson teachers became trainers for the other school teachers. A total of 564 participants attended the 15 pilot lessons which were held from 7 to 15 February 2007. Students of the pilot schools also attended the lessons and showed a great deal of interest in natural disasters.



To wrap-up this program, the Second Consultative Meeting was held from 26 to 27 March. It was attended by approximately 65 representatives from 15 pilot schools, the Southern Provincial Department of Education, and disaster experts from Sri Lanka and Japan. During this meeting, the

15 pilot schools described their concrete proposals and annual plans for further promoting and expanding disaster education at their schools and in their school divisions. Division and zone directors of Galle District provided their action plans for supporting the plans submitted by the pilot schools. As one of the outcomes of the program, the Southern Provincial Department of Education declared the first week of June to be "Disaster Education Week" at all schools in Galle District.

The implementation of these action plans is expected to further develop and improve disaster education in Galle District, as well as in Southern Province, and to contribute to the achievement of sustainable disaster education. For more information, please contact Ms. Maki Yoshida (yoshida@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **ADRC Staff Profile No. 27**
□ **Mr. Shuhei TANAKA, Senior Researcher**



I transferred from the Hyogo Prefectural Government to join the ADRC as a Senior Researcher in April 2007. In my previous position, I was mainly involved in the development, use, and conservation planning for

the port, and in the development of coastal areas.

An unforgettable memory from my time with Hyogo Prefecture is related to the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. I was working in the Port Division at the time, and was thus involved in conducting damage assessments just after the earthquake and in developing and implementing the "Port of Hyogo Restoration Plan." I was transferred out of the Port Division, but returned there about 10 years later, and worked there again until this March. During that time, I assessed the progress that had been made on disaster recovery over the past decade. The biggest lesson we learned from the assessment process was the need to prepare for disasters and devise a restoration plan before a disaster strikes. There are various opinions on this issue among experts, but the fact that "knowing about disasters helps reduce disasters" is undisputed.

I would like to thank the ADRC for the opportunity to work in this position. It is my great pleasure to be involved in such an important effort. I look forward to contributing to the important work that the ADRC is doing.