



# ADRC

## Highlights

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- **Report on the Solomon Islands Earthquake and Tsunami Investigation**
- **ADRC (IRP Secretariat) Joins Tsunami Investigation Team in Solomon Island**

Mr. Masahiko Murata, Senior Expert of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and Recovery Expert of the International Recovery Platform (IRP) Secretariat, along with tsunami experts from Hokkaido University, Tokyo University, and the Advanced Industrial Science and Technology visited the Solomon Islands from 11 to 22 April to investigate the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami that occurred near Gizo Island on the morning of 2 April 2007 (GLIDE: EQ-2007-000042-SLB). The earthquake measured 8.1 on the Richter scale and resulted in 52 deaths, mostly attributed to the tsunami and nine missing persons. As many as 20,000 people were affected.

After visiting the Secretariat of the National Disaster Council (NDC) and the UNDP Office at Honiara, the capital city of the Solomon Islands, to collect and share information, the team visited the affected islands near Gizo by a small boat from 13 to 19 April, where they measured the height, run-up distance, tsunami flow direction, ground uplift and subsidence, and housing and infrastructural damage. Mr. Murata conducted additional interviews with villagers about whether they utilized the lessons from past tsunamis such as the Indian Ocean Tsunami, and about their expectations and needs for achieving an early recovery.



The team found that the largest tsunami attacked the western coast of Gizo Isl. (over 5 m at Malakerava) and the northern part of Simbo Isl. (around 8 m at Tapurai) about five minutes after the earthquake. Waves struck three times at

intervals of a few minutes. The worst devastation was found in coastal villages, where houses were reduced to their foundations.

However, some villages suffered zero or few fatalities. This was because the villagers had learned about the relationship between large earthquakes and tsunamis from the Indian Ocean Tsunami or from lessons passed down from a large tsunami that struck in 1934. They therefore moved to higher ground after the earthquake struck. Geological conditions, that is, the presence of hills just

behind some residential areas, and the time of the tsunami, which occurred just after sunrise at 07:40 in the morning, helped minimize the number of victims.

The earthquake raised the entire of island of Ranongga, with uplift of up to 3.3 m measured in the southern region, while Simbo Isl. subsided from 30 cm to 1 m. The team estimated that the earthquake was caused by a movement of a fault line that is 100 km long and 35 km wide, just under Ranongga Isl., north of Simbo Isl.

The affected villagers were camping out in nearby locations fearing that the continuous aftershocks might produce another tsunami. Individuals and villages are still deciding whether to return home or to relocate on higher ground, depending on their particular situations and opinions. On 8 May, the NDC summarized the "Initial Recovery Strategy" with the support of international organizations such as UNDP. The government will work in collaboration with international donors to implement recovery efforts in a way that actively involves communities.

For more information on this disaster, please visit the ADRC website (<http://www.adrc.or.jp>). For more information on this mission, please contact Mr. Murata ([murata@recoveryplatform.org](mailto:murata@recoveryplatform.org)).

- **TDRM Good Practices Booklet Published**

The ADRC and the UN/OCHA Kobe have worked together to develop a holistic approach to disaster risk reduction known as Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM). In order to facilitate a better understanding of the approach and its applications, a booklet entitled "Total Disaster Risk Management: Good Practices 2007 Supplement" has been published. This booklet describes the good practices implemented by the ADRC member countries, including the utilization of satellite surveillance systems for fighting natural wildfires in Kazakhstan.

This publication will soon be available on our website. For more information, please contact Mr. Yamamoto, ADRC Senior Researcher ([yamamoto@adrc.or.jp](mailto:yamamoto@adrc.or.jp)).

- **ACDR2007 Registration Closed on 31 May**

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2007 (ACDR 2007) will be hosted by the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Astana on 25-27 June 2007. Registration closed on 31 May. For details, please visit the ACDR 2007 website (<http://web.adrc.or.jp/acdr2007astana/index.html>).