



ADRC Highlights

Vol. 169

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

1 September 2007

➤ International Conference on Earthquake Risk Management Held in Pakistan

The International Conference on Earthquake Risk Management (ICERM), which was hosted by the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) of Pakistan, was held in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad from 28 to 30 April 2007.

The conference was attended by about 150 participants from the ERRA, the National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET), the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Pakistan, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and disaster experts of India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Mexico, the Philippines, Turkey, and the United States.



The following six people participated from Japan: Dr. Hiroyuki Kameda and Dr. Chikahiro Minowa of the National Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention, Dr. Shoichi Ando of the UN Centre for Regional Development, Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office, Dr. Kenji Okazaki of the Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Dr. Hiroshi Imai of the Building Research Institute, and Mr. Takaaki Shiratori of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC).

After the opening ceremony, a plenary session was held in which participants engaged in vigorous discussions on three topics: "the earthquake of 8 October 2005 and strategies for managing its impact," "immediate response, relief, and early recovery," and "building back better."



On the second day, after the plenary session entitled "International Experience with Earthquake Reconstruction and Preparedness," various sessions were held in two venues. These

addressed such topics as "Building Back Better: Earthquake-Resistant Housing Reconstruction," "Experience Sharing and Networking for Earthquake Risk Management," "Social Protection: Making Communities Safer Through School Safety Programs and Other Community-Based Initiatives." These resulted in an active exchange of views among attendees. ADRC Senior Researcher Mr. Shiratori gave a presentation entitled "Seismic Retrofitting: Concepts and Practices" which drew considerable interest from the floor.

During the closing ceremony, Dr. Kameda read a summary of the conference and H. E. Mr. Shaukat Aziz, Prime Minister of

Pakistan, gave concluding remarks.

The following day, participants were taken by military helicopter on a visit of the earthquake-stricken areas around Muzaffarabad. This afforded a valuable opportunity for participants to observe the state of recovery at such venues as schools, residential areas, and hospitals. For more information about this conference, please contact Mr. Shiratori (shiratori@adrc.or.jp).

➤ JICA Seminar for Southeast European Countries

The ADRC conducted the "JICA Seminar on Disaster Management and Preparedness in Southeast European Countries JFY2007" from 30 July to 10 August 2007. Five trainees were invited to participate in this seminar from four countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia.

Designed to improve the disaster management capabilities of the participating countries by teaching the trainees about Japanese disaster management systems, the program consisted of lectures on the following: (1) basic disaster concepts, (2) the disaster management approach of the Japanese national government, (3) the disaster management approaches of Japanese local governments (4) disaster management at the community level, (5) countermeasures for different types of disasters, (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 country. Then, they visited national government agencies including the Cabinet Office and the Japan Meteorological Agency to gain a comprehensive understanding of Japanese disaster management systems. At the local level, they attended lectures on lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake at the Kobe City Crisis Management Office and the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution. As was done during the previous training course held in FY2006, trainees engaged in town watching and hazard mapping activities in the Nada district of Kobe, under the guidance of Dean Yujiro Ogawa of Fuji Tokoha University.

The trainees are expected to apply the lessons and experiences they gained in Japan once they return to their own countries and to further strengthen the disaster management systems in their respective countries by serving as leaders of disaster management.

The ADRC wishes to express its sincerest gratitude to all who contributed to the success of this seminar. For more information, please contact ADRC Senior Researcher, Mr. Hajime Nakano (nakano@adrc.or.jp).

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

Published by: Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)

Hitomiraikan 5F, 1-5-2, Wakinohamakaigan-dori, Chuo-ku, Kobe

651-0073, JAPAN

E-mail: editor@adrc.or.jp

Phone: +81-78-262-5540