



ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 173
16 November
2007

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● Human Resource Development

JICA Training on Disaster Management for Central Asia and the Caucasus

Commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the ADRC conducted a training course for disaster management officials from Central Asia and the Caucasus from 20 August to 14 September. The course, which was conducted in Russian, was the fourth of its kind to be conducted this fiscal year. The Central Asia and Caucasus regions frequently experience disasters such as floods, droughts, landslides and earthquakes, which sometimes extend across several countries. Also, heavy snows in the winter can lead to flooding when mountain glaciers thaw in the warmer seasons. Thus, these regions have common concerns in terms of their disaster risk management.

A total of 17 central and local government officials participated in this training course. They represented eight countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan in Central Asia, and Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan in the Caucasus. The course was attended by the first two Turkmenian participants. The participants were motivated and had a sense of purpose with regard to their training following the results of a follow-up workshop held in June to reconvene the trainees in Astana, Kazakhstan. Then the success of the training were revealed in reports given by trainees on their activities after returning to their home countries and related discussions. This follow-up workshop also revealed that a system is taking shape in these countries to enable former trainees to help prepare future trainees.

The participants heard lectures and visited central and municipal government facilities, research institutes, a meteorological organization, a broadcasting company, a medical institution, a school, a wide-area disaster management base, private companies, and an NPO in order to comprehensively learn about Japan's disaster management system, and the roles, expertise, and cooperative relationships among these organizations. They also participated in town watching activities,



Tachikawa Wide-area Disaster Management Base
Tokyo Fire Department



Hazard Mapping

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went on field trips to such sites as areas in the Rokko Mountain Range where landslide and erosion control countermeasures are being taken and the Nojima fault on Awaji Island, and observing a disaster drill organized by Hyogo Prefecture.

At the end of the course, the participants spent three days preparing action plans using the PCM method. They are expected to use their plans to lead various projects back in their home countries. This course allowed them to reinforce their relationships with one another, thereby strengthening their disaster management information network in the region.

The ADRC wishes to express its sincerest gratitude to all who contributed to the success of this course.

● Participation in International Conferences

International Disaster Reduction Conference 2007

The International Disaster Reduction Conference (IDRC) 2007 was held in Harbin, China, from 21 to 25 August 2007. This was the second conference to be held after IDRC 2006 Davos was held in Switzerland. While IDRC 2006 Davos aimed to cover the whole world, IDRC 2007 Harbin focused primarily on Asia. The topics of the conference included integrated risk management implementation for establishing risk-resilient and sustainable societies capable of managing natural hazards, disease, human-made hazards, and terrorism.

The conference attracted nearly 200 participants from international, government, and scientific organizations as well as NGOs from 38 countries. A total of about 150 papers were presented at the conference. The keynote speech was given by former ADRC researcher Mr. Shingo Kochi, now of the Japanese Cabinet Office. ADRC representatives gave two presentations: (1) A Study on the Index of Cyclone Risk-Swap Effectiveness in India by Mr. Hiroyuki Watabe, and (2) A Field Survey of the South Java Tsunami in Indonesia and Tsunami Hazard Assessment for Tsunami Risk Management by Mr. Kenpei Kojika. Both of these inspired active discussions from the floor.

The ADRC wishes to continue to disseminate information about its activities and research achievements through international conferences like this with a view to contributing to international disaster cooperation in Asia.



Mr. Kochi from the Cabinet Office

Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on School Education and Disaster Risk Reduction

The ADRC participated in the Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on School Education and Disaster Risk Reduction held in Bangkok, Thailand from 8 to 10 October 2007. The goal of the workshop was to help reduce the vulnerability of school children to disasters and to help reduce the loss of life. It also aimed to improve the resilience of school communities in previously disaster-stricken areas and in hazard-prone areas. Approximately 300 people representing the government sector, educational sector, disaster risk

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reduction community, UN agencies, NGOs, and academic institutions, as well as school children and teachers from disaster-affected countries gathered to attend the workshop.

Active discussions were held on the following priority key areas for action: 1) Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into School Education, 2) Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction Education for Community Resilience, 3) Making Schools Safer, and 4) Empowering Children for Disaster Risk Reduction. The ADRC described some of its activities, such as its disaster education projects in Thailand and Sri Lanka, as well as its JICA training course on disaster education.

The ADRC will continue to work with the UN/ISDR to promote education for disaster risk reduction in the Asian region.



Workshop

*This workshop was jointly organized by UN/ISDR Asia and Pacific, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN/ESCAP, UNCRD, UN/OCHA, IFRC, ASEAN, ADPC, ASB (Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund) and ADRC with the support of AusAID, ECHO, the World Bank and GTZ.

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