ADRC *Highlights*

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

TOPICS

●**Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions**
**JICA Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project Starts:
"NGO training for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia"**

The ADRC, with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), conducted the "NGO Training for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia" from 3 to 14 December 2007 in Kobe, Japan. This program, which will be conducted from 2007 through 2009, aims to strengthen the disaster risk reduction capacity of the ADRRN (Asian Disaster Reduction & Response Network) and to further develop the network of local NGOs based in the Asian countries.

Six NGOs from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka participated in this first year of the program and are expected to convey what they learn to their colleagues and other ADRRN members in the second year.

This year's training program aimed (1) to impart accurate information about natural disasters and disaster risk reduction as well as to learn tools for educating and raising disaster awareness among school children and local people, (2) to equip participants to transfer the knowledge gained during the course to other ADRRN members as well as to their colleagues, and (3) to enable participants to prepare a draft action plan utilizing the knowledge they gained during the course.

This training course consisted of lectures on specific and practical topics, such as the development of natural disaster knowledge, the introduction of tools for providing disaster education and raising public awareness, and disaster risk reduction activities being undertaken by Japanese NGOs. It also focused on stress management for NGO staff working in affected areas in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, on mental health care issues faced by victims of catastrophic disasters, as well as on the effectiveness of community radio
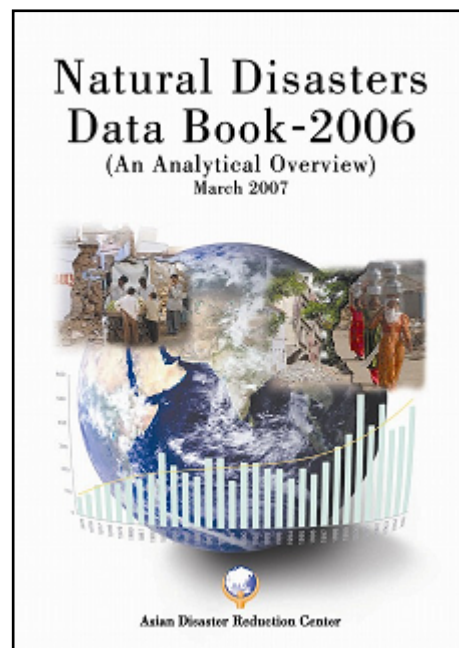
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during times of emergency. On the last day of the training course, the trainees gave presentations on their draft action plans and how they might be integrated into the on-going projects in which their organizations are involved. Each action plan reflected the knowledge and tools that were gained during the training course, and indicated ways that they could be applied to the situations faced in the participants' own countries.

In the second year of the program, the trainees will become trainers, sharing what they have learned with other ADRRN members. Since close cooperation among NGO members of the ADRRN is essential to the further development of the network, this training course provided a great opportunity for representatives of several NGOs to spend two weeks together learning more about one another's efforts.

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

●ADRC's New Publication
Natural Disasters Data Book 2006

The ADRC has published its Natural Disaster Data Book 2006, a compilation of data on natural disasters in the year 2006. Natural disasters occurred in many parts of the world in 2006. Asia was particularly hard hit, with serious human and economic tolls resulting from floods in China and India, earthquakes and tsunamis in Indonesia, and a typhoon and landslide in the Philippines. This data book is now available on the ADRC's website in both English and Japanese (http://web.adrc.or.jp/publications/databook/databook_2006_eng/eng.html).

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