



ADRC Highlights

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Asian Disaster Reduction Center

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● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Third Year of the JICA Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project Held in Kuala Lumpur

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), with support from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), conducted the third year of the "NGO Training for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia" Project from 17 to 19 August 2009 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The goal of the program this year, the final year of this project, is to develop a booklet of disaster risk reduction tools. Six first-year participants, the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN)



[Workshop on DRR Tools and Methodologies held on 18 August]

secretariat, and two ADRC representatives gathered in Kuala Lumpur to further discuss the booklet, as well as to hold a workshop on disaster risk reduction tools and methodologies.

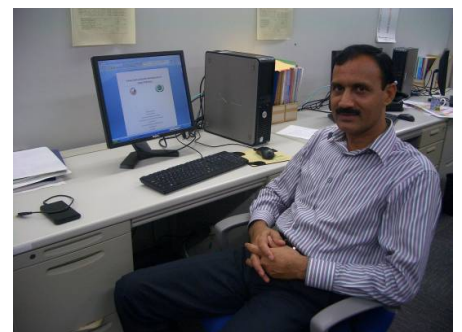
The workshop held on 18 August was attended by 20 people including a Malaysian government official, NGO officials based in Malaysia, Thailand, and Japan, and a JICA official. During the workshop, six first-year participants introduced and shared tools and methodologies that they learned primarily through this project, focusing on how they have applied what they learned in their disaster risk reduction activities. The workshop participants had many questions and comments regarding the impact of these tools on communities, the application of community-based disaster risk management tools in Malaysia, the integration of local government officials into community projects, and the management of disaster memorial centers.

The first-year participants intend to incorporate the feedback received during this workshop into the booklet and ADRC plans to have it published by the end of the year.

● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

Mr. Shahid Hussain Malik from Pakistan

I am the Director of Administration for the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), Azad Government of the State of Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), Muzaffarabad, Pakistan. The SDMA was established after the unprecedented Great Pakistan Earthquake of 2005. That earthquake devastated the northern part of Pakistan, with nine districts taking a direct hit and the seat of government and capital city, Muzaffarabad, reduced to rubble. More than 75,000 people lost their lives, and even more were injured. Nearly 70% of the public & private infrastructure was



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destroyed. More than 200,000 families ended up living out in the open and an enormous number (approx. 116,000) of internally displaced persons (IDPs) sought shelter in 225 IDP camps, which were managed by the Camp Management Organization (CMO). I served as CMO Commissioner, and ensured the delivery of all lifeline utilities and services to the camps, including food, shelter, electricity, education, health, and water & sanitation services. Pakistan's relief and recovery operation has been classified as one of the most successful in the history of the world, and all IDPs were successfully repatriated and rehabilitated to their native areas.



[Relief Operation in Quetta Earthquake]

However, the story does not end there. AJK is a disaster-prone area with a high probability of earthquake recurrence. It is therefore incumbent upon us to develop knowledge of disaster risk management (DRM) and to rigorously develop disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures. Considering the seismic environment of the area and the threat it poses to our country, we can safely say that now is the time to develop a disaster-resilient society. Pakistan did not have any national department for dealing with disasters before the earthquake of 2005, but a National Disaster Risk Management Framework was developed to fill in this gap. The SDMA was established as a result. We need to learn the importance of integrating DRR into development policies and processes. ADRC's efforts to strengthen institutions and mechanisms for the purpose of improving resilience to hazards through capacity building are an effective means of working towards the objectives stated above. The ADRC's Visiting Researcher Program endows researchers from member countries with essential skills in this area, and provides opportunities for member countries to learn more about DRR and DRM and to incorporate DRR concepts into the policies of their countries.

● More information on Disaster Management of Pakistan
<http://www.adrc.asia/nationinformation.php?NationCode=586&Lang=en&NationNum=31>

Mr. Sagar Mishra from Nepal

Hello, my name is Sagar Mishra, and I was born in Duhagadhi v.d.c. Jhapa district, in the eastern part of Nepal. I started my career in 1997, teaching at Tribhuvan University as an assistant lecturer at Nepal Commerce Campus Minbahawan, in Kathmandu. In 2000, I became an auditing officer for the district development committee of Jhapa, and in 2002, I began working as an administrative service section officer for the government of Nepal. Since then, I have worked for various offices within the Ministry of Home Affairs. Over the past seven years, I have been involved in disaster risk management and in other work for this ministry at both the central and district levels. Most of my time was spent on field work in different districts, where I worked as an assistant chief district officer, camp supervisor (Bhutanese refugee camp), and administrative officer of the District Administration Office, the main agency responsible for implementing disaster risk reduction activities at the local level.



Nepal is a new federal democratic republic consisting of five regional headquarters, 14 zones, 75 districts, 58 municipalities, and 3,913 village development committees. The head of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal is President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, while the government is headed by Prime-Minister Mr. Madhab Kumar Nepal. Nepal is a small landlocked country with an elevation ranging from 60m above sea level to 8,848m. It has a total land mass of 147,181 sq km, and is situated in South Asia. The capital is Kathmandu, and the administrative headquarters of the national government is located in Singhdarbar, Kathmandu. The current population is approx. 27 million. The

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country is graphically divided into three regions, with the Himalayan region covering 15% of the country's area, the Mid hill region covering 68%, and the Terai region covering 17%. It has four major seasons: winter from December to February, Spring from March to May, summer from June to August, and autumn from September to November. The monsoon season lasts from June until mid September.

It is prone to floods, landslides, earthquakes, snowfall, avalanches, fires, epidemics, and glacial lake outburst. The intensity of these disasters is generally moderate as compared with those in neighboring countries. This has led to a general lack of awareness of disaster risks and a lack of preparedness efforts, as was brought to light by the Koshi Flood of 2008. I believe that we could have minimized the damage caused by that disaster by educating people about preparedness measures and implementing disaster awareness programs among the general public.

Before joining ADRC, I had been working as a section officer in the Ministry of Home Affairs in Kathmandu, Nepal. Under the existing legal framework, the Ministry of Home Affairs is mandated to serve as the National Focal Point for disaster risk management in Nepal. The leading body is the Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee, which is chaired by the Honorable Home Minister and comprised of representatives of more than 30 policy-making agencies of the government of Nepal.

During my term at ADRC, I will be studying the Japanese systems for managing floods, landslides, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes. I personally feel that Japan is the one of the most developed countries in the world in terms of the effective management of these types of disasters. The Visiting Researcher Program is a great opportunity for me to share information and experiences with ADRC member countries. I would like to express my appreciation to ADRC and the government of Nepal for giving me this opportunity to enhance my knowledge and organizational capabilities in the field of disaster risk reduction and management. This program will also help to produce disaster management experts in Asia and will be helpful in formulating new policies, plans, programs, and procedures. Furthermore, it will help the Nepalese government achieve greater levels of disaster prevention/mitigation and preparedness, and develop the ability to implement post-disaster response and recovery efforts in cooperation with other agencies in Nepal. I am completely confident that these next three months will enable me to make a positive difference in enhancing and strengthening disaster risk reduction and disaster management practices in my country, Nepal. Thank you.

● More information on Disaster Management of Nepal
<http://www.adrc.asia/nationinformation.php?NationCode=524&Lang=en&NationNum=11>

● Announcements

Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2010

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2010 (ACDR2010) will be held in Kobe, Japan on 17-19 January 2010. It is being hosted by the government of Japan, the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), and ADRC.

ACDR2010 aims to follow up on the progress made towards the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and to identify the gaps that exist and the challenges being faced in the Asian region. Since 2010 is the 15th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and memories of the earthquake are beginning to fade from the community's collective awareness, we are going to have open forums aimed at reminding people of the experiences and lessons learned from that disaster. The International Recovery Forum and other related events will also be held. Please visit the ADRC website for more information (http://www.adrc.asia/acdr/2010_index.html).

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