



ADRC Highlights

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TOPICS

Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Report from the Expert Group Meeting: Toward Creative Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake

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● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Report from the Expert Group Meeting: Toward Creative Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake

The March 11 earthquake and tsunami that hit the Tohoku region along the Pacific coast of Japan was unprecedented in both scale and scope. Measuring a magnitude 9.0 on the Richter scale, the Great East Japan Earthquake was the fourth largest earthquake in the world and the largest ever recorded in Japan. The subsequent tsunami washed away many small and medium-sized towns and communities along the seashore, resulting in a record level of human casualties. Recovery and reconstruction efforts have just begun, and are likely to take many years.

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted an expert group meeting entitled “Toward Creative Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake” with the International Recovery Platform (IRP), the United Nations (UN) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, the Japanese Cabinet Office, Hyogo Prefecture and the World Bank on June 31 at the World Bank Tokyo Development Learning Center.

Approximately 70 experts and observers attended this meeting, whose objectives were two-fold: (1) to provide valuable advice to Japanese experts working on recovery and reconstruction in Japan, based on experiences gained during other large-scale disasters around the world (e.g., the Indian Ocean Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, Sichuan Earthquake, and flooding in Australia), and (2) to identify the hard-learned lessons from this painful disaster experience in Japan so that they can be put to use in disaster risk reduction efforts in other countries. Experts gave presentations aimed at achieving the above objectives. The agenda was as follows:

**Before this meeting, approximately 20 experts visited the affected area in Miyagi Prefecture from 29 to 30 June. During their visit, they had a chance to meet with Mayor Sato of Minami-Sanriku. This was an invaluable time for the sharing of opinions and ideas.*

Field visit at Minami-Sanriku Town



[Agenda for the Expert Group Meeting]

Opening Remarks

Presentation

Part I: Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake: Issues and Challenges

Continued

- Overview of the tsunami-affected area
- Response by local residents (evacuation), mass media, government, NPOs and socio economic impacts, An importance of Community Based Revival Process

Part II: Sharing of experiences in other countries

- Introduction to the Guidance Note for Recovery, Lessons learned from the Indian Ocean Tsunami (Indonesia), the Hurricane Katrina (USA) and the Sichuan Earthquake (China)

Discussion and Closing

Expert Meeting



The area affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake is transitioning from crisis response to recovery and restoration, and it was important for the representatives from various international organizations and UN agencies to be able to survey the disaster-stricken sites. By facilitating the sharing of opinions between Japanese and international experts at this meeting, ADRC hopes that the partnerships between Japan and the international community will be strengthened in the area of disaster mitigation.

●ADRC Staff Profile No. 42**Mr. Masami Sugiura, Senior Researcher**

I was dispatched by Asia Air Survey Co., Ltd. to join the ADRC as a Senior Researcher in June 2011. I have been consulting on river surveys and erosion control efforts related to disaster mitigation and planning for almost 30 years. Since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, I have been involved in research and planning related to regional plans for disaster prevention, serving as a registered Professional Civil Engineer for the Urban and Regional Disaster Prevention Section. Also, I have recently conducted many hazard map exercises for natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, flooding and sediment disasters, and have provided support for training workshops for local communities. I was involved in post-disaster investigations following the Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake and the volcanic eruptions at Mt. Unzen and Miyake island. I also visited the Tohoku region just after the most recent massive earthquake to conducted a synoptic survey.

It is my pleasure to be joining ADRC in the aftermath of such a huge disaster in Japan. I am keenly aware of the responsibility we all have to do everything in our power to contribute to the reduction of natural disasters worldwide.

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