



ADRC Highlights

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● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

Capacity Building of Local Government Officials on Disaster Management in Yangon, Myanmar

From 2 to 3 September 2011, the Rescue and Resettlement Department (RRD) of the government of Myanmar and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) jointly conducted a workshop to promote capacity building for local government officials in Myanmar. The workshop was held in Yangon and was attended by more than 30 government officials from different localities.

This workshop was conducted as part of an ongoing project that the RRD and ADRC have been implementing since 2010 and was financed by the Japan ASEAN Integration Fund. Prior to the workshop, in March of this year, a training-of-trainers (TOT) session was conducted. Three of the ten TOT participants delivered lectures at this workshop. The workshop included lectures on Total Disaster Management (TDM), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures, and an incident command system in Myanmar, and presentations on other issues were given by the ADRC, RRD, and TOT trainees. Following these lectures, a hazard mapping exercise was conducted, followed by a discussion of that activity. The local government officials that participated showed a strong interest in exploring these issues, and were thus actively engaged in the discussions and in exchanging opinions. A town-watching activity conducted in areas that were severely affected by cyclone Nargis in 2008 and activities for raising the DRR awareness of villagers helped persuade the local officials as well as the villagers of the importance of DRR.

Two more workshops are scheduled to be held this year, one in Mandalay and the other in Ayeyarwady. This project is expected to help develop the capacity of local government officials in Myanmar.



● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

ISDR Asian Partnership Meeting

ADRC participated in the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) meeting held on 6-8 September in Pattaya, Thailand. The approximately 70 participants included representatives from many countries in Asia as well as from various international and inter-governmental organizations. Participants examined and discussed follow-up on the Incheon Action Plan adopted at the 4th Asian Ministerial Conference

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on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) held in October 2010 in Incheon, Republic of Korea, as well as the proposed theme of “Strengthening Local Capacity in Disaster Risk Reduction” and expected outcomes of the 5th AMCDRR scheduled to be held in October 2012 in Yogyakarta, Republic of Indonesia. During the HFA Session, the Local Government Self Assessment Tool (LG-SAT) was introduced, and participants discussed the need for this tool and its relevance to the HFA national review. Planned events for the International Day for Disaster Reduction (13 October) were also introduced.

Following the IAP meeting, the 18th ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) was held at the same venue on 9 September. The meeting reviewed the progress made on and challenges involved in each project and activity included in the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). Participants also discussed the further implementation of AADMER among strategic partners. Detailed proceedings of the meeting are available at <http://www.unisdr-apps.net/confluence/x/BICp>.



● Announcements

International Urban Search and Rescue Course in 2011

ADRC offers member countries opportunities to participate in the International Urban Search and Rescue Course, which has been conducted by the Civil Defense Academy (CDA) of the Singapore Civil Defense Force (SCDF) since 2001. In 2011, this training was held from 26 September to 7 October 2011 in Singapore. ADRC invited two participants from member countries Bangladesh and Russia. Details about their activities will be provided once they submit their report.



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