



ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 225
December
2011

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● Natural Disaster Report

The 2011 Thailand Floods

Unprecedented level and nature of disaster impact

The year 2011 has been marked by two particularly notable natural disasters: the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and the massive floods in Thailand.

While the flooding in Thailand is still continuing and even expanding toward the southern provinces, The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) has been

consulting with relevant organizations

regarding what types of support will be

both needed and feasible during the

recovery and restoration phases. As part

of these activities, ADRC sent a staff

member to Bangkok, from 29 November

to 2 December to assess the situation and

identify areas in which ADRC might be

able to provide support. This was done

by consulting with relevant

organizations including the Thai

government, UN agencies, and other

disaster management organizations.



The massive floods in the Chao Phraya basin have been gradually expanding downstream since last October, devastating Ayutthaya province in the central region and the Bangkok metropolitan area and its environs. As of 6 December, approximately 1.75 million households and 4.7 million people had been affected. These figures include 684 deaths and three missing persons, according to the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) of the Thai Ministry of Interior. At the beginning of December, the overall situation seemed to be improving somewhat, as water began subsiding in many affected areas and some factories resumed operations. However, the flood risk is still present, and it is likely to take quite some time before economic activity is restored to pre-flood levels. According to one estimate, the Thai floods rank as the fourth largest disaster in terms of economic damage, behind the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji (Kobe) Earthquake, in that order. The economic damage levels currently being reported primarily take into account direct damage to assets, but do not necessarily include the indirect costs and losses of profit, especially those incurred due to the disruption of supply/production chains not only in Thailand but around the world.

Priorities in recovery process and current efforts

At individual factories, the highest priority is replacing damaged production equipment and reestablishing production lines. A scarcity of necessary equipment and competent professionals may hamper early restoration efforts. Measures must be taken to improve protective facilities and raise the level of embankments in preparation for future flood risks. Great efforts must also be taken to retain skilled workers as well as to maintain hard-won supply and production networks and to

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sustain relationships with local partners.

ADRC's initiatives

Many aid and UN agencies and research institutes have been already operating in the field. For example, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has provided emergency supplies, such as food, water, and tents, as well as special vehicles to help with water drainage, and has offered support to affected factories and agricultural sector industries. ADRC has been consulting with the Thai government and with the UN and other agencies in Thailand to identify areas where support is both possible and desirable. In the process, ADRC is carefully examining how industries have been affected by the floods and is exploring ways to mitigate possible damages. It may also prove useful to examine such topics as the disaster preparation of businesses and residents, including disaster communications, the management of emergency shelters, and housing recovery in the reconstruction process by comparing cases in Thailand with past cases in Japan. To do this, ADRC will continue to consult with relevant organizations and initiate relevant activities, as deemed

**● Participation in International Conferences****The 2nd Safety Conference, Qatar Vision 2030 “Century Challenges”**

The 3rd Civil Defence Exhibition and Conference was organized by the government of Qatar from 14 to 16 November 2011 in Doha Qatar. The 2nd Security Conference (forum) was held as a side event at this conference. Seven officials and specialists involved in disaster risk management, including an ADRC researcher, were invited to the forum to deliver presentations. ADRC discussed the damage caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in March of this year, as well as the lessons learned from that disaster. Other presenters spoke about a broad range of issues, including both man-made and natural disasters, such as climate change, the challenges posed by high-rise building disasters, and information dissemination. More than 200 officials, experts, and journalists from Qatar participated in the forum, actively exchanging views and opinions and demonstrating a strong interest in disaster risk management.

**United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Risk Management (Beijing)**

The UN International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Risk Management was organized by the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China from 22 to 25 November 2011 in Beijing, China. The conference attracted more than 100 people, including disaster management officials, professionals from space-related organizations (particularly those involved in remote sensing technologies), scholars, and representatives of disaster NGOs.

At this conference, topics related to the following sub-themes were enthusiastically discussed:

- 1) Global space-based resources for disaster management
- 2) Portals and platforms contributing to disaster risk management and emergency response
- 3) Rapid response mapping
- 4) International/regional rapid mapping initiatives/practices

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5) Initiatives promoting the use of space-based information in disaster risk management

At the conference, ADRC gave a presentation entitled "ADRC Activities in Sentinel Asia, and the Effectiveness of Satellite Images After the Great East Japan Earthquake." We talked about efforts to obtain emergency satellite observations by working in partnership with the other countries of Asia, and shared stories about the measures taken in response to the Great East Earthquake within the context of that framework.

● Announcements**The 8th Sentinel Asia System (SAS) Operation Training**

Recruitment of participants concerning 8th Sentinel Asia System (SAS) Operation Training for Applicants from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

-Participants Deadline : January 06

-Location : Kasetsart University (Bangkok, Thailand)

<https://sentinel.tksc.jaxa.jp/sentinel2/capaBuild.action>

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