



# ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 227  
February  
2012

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## ● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

### Training for Government Officials in Charge of DRM in Indonesia

From 27 to 29 January 2012, Indonesia's National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted training for government officials in charge of disaster risk management in Jakarta, Indonesia. This was part of a capacity building project in ASEAN member countries that ADRC has been involved in since 2008. During the training, BNPB and ADRC conducted a training-of-trainers (TOT) for selected BNPB officials to enable them to give lectures in upcoming workshops at the provincial level.

The program was divided into two sessions: (1) lectures on such DRR topics as recovery from disasters and raising public awareness, and (2) effective training skills practice. Though the training only lasted a short period, the 20 participating officials actively exchanged opinions and stayed up late at night preparing their presentations. Each participant gave a presentation on their area of DRM expertise, improving their understanding and training skills through the interactive discussion and evaluation process.

The TOT participants will be expected to facilitate future trainings, and their expertise is expected to help further strengthen local capacities. ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to the BNPB officials and related agencies whose contributions made this training such a great success.



## ● Participation in International Conferences

### The 49th Session of UN-COPUOS and the 3rd UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices (RSO) Meeting

ADRC participated in two events held jointly in Vienna, Austria in February: the 49th Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN-COPUOS) and the 3rd UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) Regional Support Offices (RSO) Meeting.

More than 30 representatives of RSOs from around the world attended the UN-SPIDER meeting, which was held over two days, 6 to 7 February. During the meeting, the following topics were eagerly discussed:

- 1) Review of activities in 2011
- 2) Proposed activities in 2012-2013
- 3) Breakout sessions to discuss joint activities (Asia, Africa, and Central and South America)
- 4) Knowledge portal and knowledge management

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## 5) Leveraging existing opportunities

ADRC, in its capacity as an RSO, gave a presentation at the UN-SPIDER RSO Meeting on its activities and accomplishments in 2011 as well as its future plans. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange opinions and explore ways to enhance the future activities of UN-SPIDER RSOs.

**● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report****Mr. Md Munir CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh)**

My name is Md. Munir Chowdhury. I have been working as a Deputy Secretary in the Disaster Management and Relief Division, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management of Bangladesh since April 2008. I earned a Master's in Business Administration (MBA), with a major in Finance, from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) at the University of Dhaka, and completed a second Master's in Development Administration at the University of Birmingham, England. I also have earned a Post Graduate Certificate in Public Finance from the IMF Institution in Washington DC, US, as well as a Post Graduate Certificate in Project Management for Sustainable Development from the University of Connecticut, US. My detail assignments have included the formulation, review, and execution of policies, plans, procedures, standing orders, and guidelines relating to overall disaster risk reduction and emergency response management, including relief rehabilitation and safety net programs. I also am responsible for the coordination of DRR activities with other agencies.



Bangladesh is considered to be one of the most disaster-prone country in the world. Its coastal areas are periodically hit by floods, cyclones, and storm surges, and most of the people living in those areas are highly vulnerable. Thus, better social protection measures are needed for addressing such risks. Since safety nets, especially livelihood recovery efforts, are strongly related to DRR, the government of Bangladesh needs strong institutional support for implementing different social protection programs during post-disaster recovery and reconstruction. Practical information about post-disaster activities, including short, medium, and long-term recovery programs in the Japanese context, and information about the tools, techniques, and logistics used to deal with post-disaster situations will enrich the knowledge and experience of researchers, enabling them to replicate such measures for combating disaster risk reduction in their own countries.

**Mr. Dangal Rameshwor (Nepal)**

My name is Rameshwor Dangal, and I work as the Section Chief of the Disaster Management Section in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal. The Ministry of Home Affairs is the core agency for disaster management in Nepal. The Ministry discharges its responsibility through the Disaster Management Section and National Emergency Operation Centre. Both sections work under the supervision of the Planning and Special Service Division. The Disaster Management Section is mainly responsible for policy and plan formulation and coordination among the national and international stakeholders working in disaster management. As the section chief, I am actively involved in activities related to formulating policies and plans, coordinating stakeholders, facilitating efforts of the concerned agencies, and organizing and participating in national and international meetings, workshops, seminars, and trainings.

Nepal's geographical location as well as its prevailing geographical features makes it one of the most disaster-prone countries in the region. Floods, landslides, fires, lightning, storms, and cold snaps are very common disasters in Nepal, and claim an average of 300 lives and much property each year. Nepal is also prone to earthquake disasters; it is ranked 11th among the nations of the world in terms of its

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earthquake disaster risk. In addition, unplanned growth and haphazard city development has increased the risk of urban disasters. Given its high level of vulnerability, Nepal follows a comprehensive approach to disaster management, constantly advancing emergency management systems, prioritizing disaster risk reduction activities, and promoting international cooperation in this field.

The ADRC Visiting Researcher (VR) Program is a great opportunity for conducting research on disaster management. I would like to express my deep gratitude to the government of Japan and the ADRC, and also to the Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal for giving me the opportunity to have such a fruitful experience in Japan.

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