



# ADRC Highlights

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## ● Human Resource Development

### JICA Training Course: "Comprehensive Disaster Management for Central Asia and Caucasus 2012"

Central Asia and the Caucasus frequently experience disasters such as floods, droughts, landslides, and earthquakes, some of which extend across several countries. Also, heavy snowfall in the winter can lead to flooding when mountain glaciers thaw in the warmer seasons. Thus, these regions have common concerns in terms of disaster risk management.

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted a training course for disaster management officials from Central Asia and the Caucasus from 25 June to 4 August with cooperation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kansai International Center. This course has been held nine times since the program was launched, and it aims to convey basic knowledge and experiences related to natural disaster management, and to further promote the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in the trainees' countries. Trainees were asked to identify a major problem in their own countries and to formulate an action plan for addressing it. The course was conducted in Russian, with eight central and local government officials representing five countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan in Central Asia, and Armenia in the Caucasus.

Participants attended lectures and visited central and municipal government agencies, research institutes, a meteorological organization, a broadcasting company, a medical institution, a disaster management base, private companies, and a UN office in order to comprehensively enhance their understanding of the disaster management system. They also participated in community activities, such as "Town Watching," which involved hazard mapmaking, and went on an excursion to the Shikoku Mountain Range where landslide and erosion control countermeasures are being implemented. In addition, they visited Sendai-city, Natori-city, and Minamisanriku-town, all of which were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami on 11 March 2011, to see the recovery status and lesson learned in those locations. It is hoped that the participants will make good use of the knowledge, technologies, and methods they learned during this training course to implement various projects and help strengthen the disaster management systems in their home countries.

ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all the organizations that contributed to the success of this course.



## ●ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

### **Mr. Adilet Sekimov (Kyrgyz Republic)**

My name is Adilet Sekimov, and I work in the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic (MES KR) as a specialist in the Monitoring and Project Realization Bureau of the International Cooperation Department. As part of the Central Office of the MES KR, this department assists in the implementation of international cooperation in the sphere of preventing and managing emergency situations and also pursues foreign investment (grants and technical assistance).

The main objectives of our department are to establish and maintain international cooperation in emergency prevention and management through partnerships with foreign states and international organizations, and to promote efforts

to attract foreign investment in the area of disaster risk reduction through work with international financial and donor institutions. As a specialist in this department, I am actively involved in its activities. I am responsible for all matters under the purview of the department and for activities involving such international organizations as the World Bank, UNHCR, and UNWFP.

The location of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as its prevailing geographical features make it one of the most disaster-prone countries in the region. The country is located in the northeast part of Central Asia and has an area of 198,500 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 5.5 million. Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country, with nearly 90% of located above 1,500 m and an average height of 2,750 m above sea level. Its tallest mountain is Pobeda peak, at an elevation of 7,439 m. The mountainous terrain and varied climate zones influence the natural processes that lead to emergency situations. Among the 70 types of dangerous natural processes that occur worldwide, more than 20 occur in Kyrgyzstan. These include earthquakes, mudflows, floods, landslides, snow avalanches, and water logging.

One of the ADRC's missions is to build disaster-resilient communities and to establish networks among countries through programs that include personnel exchanges in this field, and its coordinating efforts in the fields of risk and hazard assessment, risk reduction, and disaster management for the Asian region are important for member countries.

The ADRC's visiting researcher program offers me a unique opportunity to enrich and deepen my knowledge in the field of disaster management. I expect to learn about disaster prevention and preparedness, disaster management measures, and community-based early warning systems. Also, if possible, I'm planning to visit some of the areas that were damaged by last year's earthquake and tsunami disaster. I'm sure my experience as a visiting researcher with ADRC will be very beneficial and useful for me in my work in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the ADRC as well as to the government of Japan for giving me this chance to learn and enrich my knowledge in the field of disaster risk reduction. Also, many thanks to the ADRC staff for their assistance and cooperation. I would like to wish them prosperity and peace.



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### **Mr. Moneer Abdullah AL-MASNI (Yemen)**

My name is Moneer Abdullah AL-MASNI and I am from Yemen, where I work in the Seismological and Volcanological Observatory Center (SVOC). I started my professional career in 1998 as a specialist in seismic data analysis. In 2004, I attended the International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering (IISEE) at the Building Research Institute (BRI) in Japan to study seismology and earned a post-graduate degree in Seismology (equivalent to a master's degree in at a Japanese university). Since August 2006, I have been working in the Department of Earthquake Risk Mitigation/Earthquake Engineering. I have conducted several studies on seismic hazard assessment in various parts of Yemen as well as in Muscat city in Oman.

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Yemen is located on the Arabian Peninsula, and is bordered by the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden to the south and the Red Sea to the west, which is considered to be one of the most active tectonic boundary zones. Saudi Arabia is located to the north and Oman is to the east. Yemen covers an area of nearly 528,000 km<sup>2</sup> and is home to a population of about 22 million. The country's topography of rugged mountains, highlands, deserts, and coastal plains, coupled with its arid weather conditions, make it highly susceptible to desertification, landslides, earthquakes, and floods. It is a disaster-prone country that has experienced at least one disaster a year over the last three decades. These various disasters have resulted in significant economic damage due to the loss of life as well as damage to livelihoods, property, and infrastructure.



Disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels has not as yet received attention in Yemen, as the focus of planning efforts has been on disaster relief and recovery (post-disaster) operations. The implementation of initiatives to identify disaster risks is well underway, although a formal early warning system does not yet exist. A National Probabilistic Risk Assessment of Yemen was issued last year by UN agencies and the World Bank, but detailed risk assessments are still needed at the local governorate level. Therefore, the main objective of my research plan at ADRC focuses on disaster preparedness planning based on damage and loss estimates for Sana'a city, the capital of Yemen, using earthquake scenarios from historical events. My research plan will be useful for National Disaster Management Unit (NDMU) in the development of planning stage (pre-disaster) and preparing appropriate policy guidelines for promoting disaster preparedness planning in Sana'a city.

I joined ADRC this August as a visiting researcher to share the experiences of my country in disaster management and to study disaster management systems in Japan and other ADRC member countries. This experience will be useful in terms of helping me perform my duties and in minimizing damage from disasters in Yemen.

I am thankful to ADRC for the efforts taken to make my stay in Japan comfortable as well as to the government of Japan for providing me such an opportunity to spend time here and learn from the vast experience of governmental and other disaster management institutions in Japan, as well as other ADRC member countries. I would also like to thank the government of Yemen for allowing me to benefit from Japan's practical experience in the field of disaster management.

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