



ADRC Highlights

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Asian Disaster Reduction Center

Higashikan 5F, 1-5-2
Wakinohamakaigan-dori,
Chuo-ku, Kobe
651-0073 Japan

Tel: 078-262-5540
Fax: 078-262-5546
editor@adrc.asia
http://www.adrc.asia

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● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

The 9th Sentinel Asia System Operation Training Held in Jakarta

The 9th Sentinel Asia System (SAS) Operation Training was jointly organized by several agencies including the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT) from 1 to 5 October 2012 at the BPPT in Jakarta, Indonesia. The training was attended by more than 20 people from space agencies and other relevant agencies in the Asia-Pacific region. The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) provided instructors for this training program.

ADRC gave three lectures, entitled "ADRC Activities", "ADRC's Role in Sentinel Asia Activities" and "Hopes of Disaster Management Organizations for Sentinel Asia Step 3."



Lecture in the BPPT



Site visit to Bogor

● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

Ms. Armine Khangaldyan (Armenia)

I am currently serving as a Visiting Researcher at ADRC in Kobe, though I ordinarily work as the principal specialist in the Observation Network and Information Analysis Department of the National Survey for Seismic Protection Agency (NSSP) in the Armenian Ministry of Emergency Situations. I started my career as a specialist in the Department of Data Acquisition Processing and Analysis in 1998. My main responsibilities with regard to the evaluation of seismic hazards are to develop and expand the databases of parameters obtained from the national observation networks, to identify anomalies, and to analyze seismic hazards using special programs and typical methodologies of the NSSP. I'm expecting to study special programs and typical methodologies used in Japan in the field of data acquisition, processing, and analysis during my time in Japan.



Armenia is a landlocked country in the Trans-caucasian region, situated between the Black and Caspian Seas. It is bordered on the north and east by Georgia and Azerbaijan and on the south and west by Iran and Turkey. Armenia is a country that experiences numerous natural and man-made disasters, including

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earthquakes, mudslides, transportation accidents, and landslides. Analyses of the losses caused by these various hazards have revealed earthquakes to be the most catastrophic of those that Armenia faces.

Armenia is located in the Alpine-Himalayan and Balkan-Carpathian seismic belts, a high seismic hazard zone. The most tragic seismic event in Armenia's recent history was the Spitak earthquake on 7 December 1988. The earthquake impacted 40% of the territory of Armenia, a densely populated region of one million. The affected area covered 3,000 sq. km, and the disaster left 514,000 people without shelter, 20,000 people injured, and 12,500 people hospitalized. The total number of fatalities was about 25,000. The earthquake completely destroyed the town of Spitak, as well as parts of Leninakan and Kirovakan. The seismic risk has been significantly increased by the potential threat of new earthquakes. After that catastrophic earthquake, in 1991, the government of Armenia established the NSSP to take measures related to earthquake disaster management. The main objectives of the NSSP are as follows: conduct seismic hazard monitoring in Armenia; assess the seismic hazards and seismic risks of its territories; and reduce seismic risks.

Since its founding, the NSSP has developed close ties with international organizations like ADRC, which is well known in the field of seismic hazard and risk assessment and reduction. It recognizes the importance of the experience of these organizations and aims to adapt those experiences to Armenian realities. ADRC's mission is to enhance the disaster resilience of its member countries, to build safe communities, and to create societies where sustainable development is possible. It is very important to me that I take full advantage of this great opportunity to conduct research that is being afforded to me by the government of Japan and ADRC, as well as by the Armenian NSSP, and that I work diligently to gain valuable experiences while in Japan.

During my time here thus far, my fellow Visiting Researchers and I have visited several different research institutions and governmental organizations. Based on lessons that were learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of January 1995 and other devastating disasters, the Japanese government had to change its Earthquake Disaster Management Strategy, which aims to reduce fatalities and economic damage. Eleven major redevelopment projects were undertaken and all were completed within 10 years. The level of recovery progress achieved, especially after such a major disaster, astonished the world.

I look forward to reporting on all of the knowledge and skills in disaster management that I'm gaining through the ADRC Visiting Researcher Program to the management team of the Armenian NSSP, and also look forward to sharing what I've learned with my colleagues. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the governments of both Japan and Armenia in giving me the tremendous opportunity to participate in this program. I also would like to express my appreciation to all those, especially the ADRC staff, who made my time in Japan an experience that has far surpassed my every expectation. And finally, I would like to express my admiration of all those who continue to devote their time and efforts to education and training in the field of disaster management. I'm sure that what I have gained from this experience, professionally, culturally, and personally, will leave a deep imprint on my future.

Mr. Liu Nanjiang (China)

I work for the National Disaster Reduction Center of China (NDRCC) which is part of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of P. R. China (MCA). This ministry is responsible for organizing and coordinating disaster relief work for all of China. The NDRCC, set up in 2002, is mainly responsible for providing technological and information services, conducting applied research and personnel training, and helping the government make decisions related to disaster reduction and relief.

China is a country that suffers some of the world's most serious natural disasters due to its vast territory, complicated climatic, geographical, and geological conditions, and fragile ecological conditions. Over 70% of China's cities and 50% of its population are located in regions frequently hit by major



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meteorological, seismological, geological, and maritime disasters. Since 2000, the annual direct economic losses due to natural disasters have ranged from 5% to 7% of China's GDP, with death tolls having numbered in the thousands. It is clear that natural disasters have become a great obstacle to sustainable social and economic development in China.

To reduce the damage and losses resulting from natural disasters, China has established the National Commission for Disaster Reduction (NCDR), an organization responsible for establishing state policies, regulations, guidelines, and action plans for disaster mitigation. It is also responsible for organizing major national disaster reduction activities, directing local efforts, and facilitating cross-border interactions and collaborations.

In recent years, the government has stepped up its efforts to build a disaster reduction system. First, steps were taken to incorporate disaster reduction into the state's development plan. The Chinese government has made disaster risk reduction a top priority in its state and local socioeconomic development plans. A national emergency response system has been built and is gradually being improved. The government has formulated the State 12th Five-year Plan for Disaster Reduction.

Second, with the development of disaster management efforts, the Chinese government is paying more attention to disaster information management. Thus we developed the National Disaster Information Management System in 2008.

Third, China is enhancing its disaster response management practices. The State Council issued the State Overall Contingency Plan for Emergent Public Events, while the Ministry of Civil Affairs developed a Contingency Plan for Disaster Relief, Operating Procedures for Abrupt Natural Disasters, and Operating Procedures for Emergent Disaster Relief. Contingency plans have been developed at the provincial, city, and county levels, as well as for towns, factories, and schools.

While at ADRC, I would like to conduct research on the risk assessment of disasters that occur in Japan, such as earthquakes and typhoons. I want to thoroughly examine the disaster risk index system and risk assessment models, among other topics. I will use Japan's advanced experience and technologies to design a set of disaster risk assessment standards and enhance the level of disaster prevention and mitigation in China. I also hope to study Japanese disaster mitigation communities, including the methods by which they are established and related legislation.

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