



ADRC Highlights

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● Participation in International Conferences

RCC10 and Meeting with the Chief of Mongolia's NEMA

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) participated in the 10th Regional Consultative Committee (RCC10) co-hosted by the United Nations office for International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the government of Mongolia, and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center* (ADPC), which was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 25-27 March 2013. Delegates from ADPC-member countries, international organizations such as UNISDR, and AusAID discussed barriers to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, whose target year is only two years away. Participants agreed that efforts to "mainstream" disaster risk reduction (DRR) into development policies, especially at the local level, have slowed, and that even when local governments have enacted such laws and rules, they have been difficult to execute.

The ADRC staff had an opportunity to meet with the Chief of Mongolia's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mr. T. Dulamdorj, during their stay in Mongolia. The executive director of ADRC expressed his sincere gratitude for the Mongolian government's cooperation. The Chief of NEMA thanked ADRC for its activities in Mongolia, including its technical cooperative project with JICA, "The Project for Strengthening the Capacity of Seismic Disaster Risk Management in Ulaanbaatar City, Mongolia," and the visiting researcher program. Both sides reaffirmed their interest in strengthening cooperation between NEMA and ADRC.

* ADPC was founded in 1986 around the outreach center of the Asian Institute of Technology (Bangkok, Thailand). The "Joint Statement of the Third Mekong - Japan Summit" (November 2011) pointed out that "The Mekong region countries also welcomed the initiative expressed by Thailand and Japan to enhance the collaboration between Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC) in Kobe in Japan and Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) in Thailand to improve the capacity of the region."

● Human Resource Development

JICA Training "Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management"

From 7 January to 22 February 2013, ADRC, in collaboration with JICA, conducted the JICA Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Course for 10 countries, namely China, Fiji, Haiti, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mauritius, Myanmar, Philippines, Solomon Islands, and the Palestinian Authority. Fourteen government officials in charge of disaster risk reduction and one university lecturer took part in the training. This course aimed to help participants formulate and further develop disaster management plans in their own countries based on the concept of total disaster risk management, by enhancing their understanding of the disaster management systems adopted by the central and local governments of Japan.

During the training, participants attended a series of lectures on such topics as the Japanese disaster management system at the central and local levels, Japanese measures against flooding, sediment disasters, and earthquakes, school disaster education, community-based disaster risk management, the role of the media in disaster risk reduction, and recovery from natural disasters. In addition,

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they participated in a drill conducted by a Disaster Prevention Welfare Community in Kobe and the ADRC's town watching exercise, in addition to visiting tsunami-affected areas of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

The trainees showed great interest in Japanese disaster management systems and efforts at disaster risk reduction and were keen to learn from every lecture and exercise offered during this training course. It is hoped that the participants will make good use of the knowledge and methods they learned during this training course to help strengthen the disaster management systems in their home countries. ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all of the organizations that contributed to the success of this course.



JICA Training “Raising Awareness of Disaster Reduction”

From 8 January to 8 February 2013, ADRC, in collaboration with JICA, conducted a JICA training course on “Raising Awareness of Disaster Reduction” for government officials in charge of disaster risk reduction at the central and local government levels.

Representatives from the countries of Brazil, Chili, Colombia, Honduras, Myanmar, Viet Nam, PNG, Philippines, and Turkey took part in this training (12 trainees from 9 countries). The primary objective of the training was to establish concrete disaster reduction measures tailored to each participant's country, utilizing knowledge and methods gained from the training. During the training, participants learned the roles to be played by the various relevant organizations, such as local authorities, academic organizations, the Japan Meteorological Agency, mass media, and NPOs, while attending lectures and occasionally visiting related facilities and organizations. The training included the following specific activities: (1) town watching and hazard map creation, in which the trainees explored a certain area of downtown, identified risks, and came up with solutions, (2) a visit to the disaster-stricken area of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and (3) lectures on the formation of action plans, during which the trainees developed their own action plans.



The trainees are expected not only to carry out their action plans upon returning home, but also to apply the knowledge and methods they learned during their training and to promote efforts to raise awareness of disaster risk reduction measures.

● Announcement

Interview by APRSAF Secretariat

The Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) Secretariat interviewed Mr. Masami Sugiura, a senior researcher at ADRC, in March 2013. Mr. Sugiura discussed the expected significant role of ADRC in Sentinel Asia, STEP 3 of which starts in 2014.

http://www.aprsaf.org/interviews_features/interviews_2013/70.php

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