



ADRC Highlights

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● Participation in International Conferences

ADRC Participates in First Saudi International Conference on Crisis and Disaster Management

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) participated in the Saudi International Conference on Crisis and Disaster Management which was organized by Imamu University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 8-9 Sep 2013. With disasters having become a major concern with global dimensions, this conference invited experts from various countries to share knowledge about disaster management policies and their effects. At the conference, about 40 experts in crisis and disaster management from Australia, Egypt, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, and the US, as well as representatives of the organizing university and others, gave lectures on topics such as "Modern Technologies for Crisis Management" and "Critical Assessment of Disaster Vulnerabilities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" to an audience of about 500 attendees (including government officials, students, and others). An ADRC representative gave a presentation on "Lessons Learnt from the Great East Japan Earthquake," discussing the efficacy of disaster prevention education and ADRC's related activities. This presentation was of great interest to the audience and stressed the importance of disaster prevention education and the necessity of enhancing public awareness of disaster risk reduction in Saudi Arabia. Many of the government officials that attended this conference had a strong interest in ADRC, and some asked about the membership process. We hope that Saudi Arabia will become an ADRC member in the near future.



● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

"Workshop on Disaster Recovery Planning for South Sudan" was successfully organized and held by IRP, ADRC and the Cabinet Office of Japan

Contributing to the critical stage of institution-building in a new country South Sudan, IRP/ADRC, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), had facilitated a workshop on disaster recovery planning held in Juba, 25-27 September 2013. It was the third workshop for Eastern Africa under the EC-funded project "Strengthening Region-based Capacities in Disaster Recovery Planning", which is implemented by UNISDR through IRP/ADRC. About 25 high-level officials from different ministries of the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) participated in the workshop to explore options of recovery from disasters and conflicts. In addition, representatives of international organizations, specifically WHO, JICA, and UNEP also participated to make sure that the



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workshop encapsulates local knowledge as well as regional and international experiences. At the opening, several dignitaries delivered key messages on disaster risk reduction to the participants. These included key officials from GoSS, namely Honorable Mr. Monywir Arop Kuol, Undersecretary Ministry of Health; Honorable Mr. Peter Lam Both, Chair of Relief and Rehabilitation Committees; and Honorable Mr. Clement Dominic, Undersecretary, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management. Moreover, Mr. Masatoshi Yokkaichi, Director Disaster Preparedness, Public Relation, and International Cooperation, Cabinet Office of Japan (also the Vice-Chair of IRP and the Chair of ADRC Steering Committee) was in attendance. Other dignitaries who graced the occasion were Mr. Keflemariam Sebhatu, Program Manager of Humanitarian Affairs, IGAD and Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia, Knowledge Management Officer of IRP.

Like the previous workshops, various aspects of recovery planning were discussed. In particular, options and strategies to “build back better” after long-drought, heavy flooding, and conflict were explored using local and global cases as reference. IRP/ADRC partners from WHO Ethiopia, WHO South Sudan, UNEP South Sudan, Hyogo Prefecture, and the Cabinet Office of Japan (CAO) had sent experts to help facilitate the workshop and share lessons on recovery.

It was noted that the workshop on disaster recovery planning has already been conducted in over 20 countries across the regions of Horn of Africa, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central America, Eastern and Western Europe, the Pacific, and the Middle East. It was in South Sudan that high level officials from CAO participated in the workshop for the first time since it started in December 2010. The presence of CAO, being the vice-chair of IRP, signified strong visibility of IRP activities which was highly recognized by IRP partners, specifically UNISDR, ADRC, and Hyogo Prefecture. Moreover, the sharing of Mr. Yokkaichi provided meaningful lessons for officials of South Sudan, who are keen in bringing the country to a better state after its long and violent struggle. In addition, the presentation of Mr. Yokkaichi offered useful information and lessons on recovery from Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, including how Japanese DRR policies and legal frameworks have been amended to facilitate more effective recovery operations. CAO’s comprehensive and valuable presentation was well received. In fact, it rendered good impressions among participants, as it provided a venue for open dialogue between Japanese and South Sudan Officials.

Among the key recovery challenges facing South Sudan include provisions of basic services (specifically water and housing), peace and security, livelihoods, and governance. After almost four decades of civil conflict with Sudan, about 4 million people were displaced from their homes. While a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was reached in 2005, some issues of peace and security remain unresolved including oil transport, allocation of oil revenues, and border demarcation that sometimes lead to fighting. Common livelihoods activities such as farming and livestock are facing issues pertaining to markets and social facilities. And as a new country, the GoSS is at the critical stage of state consolidation. It is in this context that the workshop was delivered. It was an opportune time to contribute in state consolidation through recovery planning. The lessons on recovery, as compiled by IRP/ADRC from various experiences around the globe, provided an additional input to build on the existing government initiatives. The key output of the workshops is the consolidated strategic recommendations for recovery plan for drought, flood, and conflict.

As way forward, the following key next steps were identified. Firstly, all participants will be included in the Roster of Experts maintained by IRP. This roster will be managed by IGAD, as the regional body with standby capacity on disaster recovery planning. Trained experts will continually receive information and update on recovery from IGAD Secretariat, including those from IRP/ADRC. Secondly, local cases and experiences in South Sudan will be documented and shared among IGAD member states as well as globally through IRP. Finally, trained experts are expected to share knowledge gained from the workshops to other officials from different ministries.

For more information, please contact Mr. Shingo Kouchi (kouchi@recoveryplatform.org).



The vice-chair of IRP, Mr. Masatoshi Yokkaichi, shared the lessons on disaster risk management from Japan. His talk drew greater interest among participants, specifically South Sudan officials.

● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

Mr. Ibrahim Thaufeeq (Maldives)

Hello from the Maldives! I am Ibrahim Thaufeeq and I work at the Directorate of Operations and Training, Integrated Headquarters of the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF). The functions of the directorate are twofold. First, we are in charge of coordinating and conducting all operations, military, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and internal security operations, on behalf of the Armed Forces of the Maldives. Second, we coordinate with relevant agencies and countries to conduct trainings, seminars, and conferences, and we provide capacity-building opportunities for all the soldiers and sailors of the Maldives National Defence Force, in addition to facilitating local training exercises. My primary responsibilities include coordinating with training teams for bilateral trainings and coordinating with other units of MNDF to conduct operations and trainings. Disaster management is one of my secondary responsibilities, and I have participated in ongoing work to formulate a National Emergency Operations Plan for Disaster Management by the National Disaster Management Centre.



My heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone at ADRC for blessing me with this priceless opportunity. It is simply amazing to see the disaster resilience Japan has developed as a nation and the perseverance of the Japanese people during times of disaster. I truly believe that Japan is the best place to learn from when it comes to dealing with disasters. It is wonderful to have researchers from various countries come here and share their experiences. We are here to learn from one another and from Japan, and our goal is to mitigate the risks we face in our own countries. Should the worst happen, we want to be able to respond in a timely manner, recover efficiently, and effectively help our nations return to a state of normalcy.

My research focuses on Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction. I purposely chose this area because the Maldives is a nation of around 1,200 islands. Considering all the logistical and fiscal constraints we face, building resilience against disasters at the community level and empowering the everyday citizen is the best way to address disasters in this environment. We need to foster a community-based approach to disaster risk reduction in order to protect our country for generations to come.

Mr. Mansurjon Tashpulatov (Uzbekistan)

My name is Mansurjon Tashpulatov, and I work in the Department of Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology, Geo-ecological Works of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Geology and Mineral Resources. This department performs the following functions:

- Supports the activities of corporate hydrogeological, engineering geological, and geo-ecological work, to ensure quality and improve efficiency through the use of advanced production techniques, methods, and technologies
- Monitors the implementation of activities in mountainous areas that have a high risk of severe landslides and avalanches (especially in the spring-autumn seasons)
- Performs management activities to prevent the catastrophic effects of dangerous geological processes
- Provides instructions for hydrogeological, engineering geological, and geo-ecological work, builds water storage tanks that use underground water, and develops protective measures against landslides and avalanches in mountainous areas

The study of geology in Central Asia began when the first geological maps and mineral reports for the region around Turkestan were created in the 1900s. In 1920, Central Asia University (now the National University of Uzbekistan) began offering training for geologists. In 1926, the Central Asia Department of the Committee of Geology (which was renamed the Central Asia Regional Geological Survey (SARGRU) in 1930) was organized. The Central Asia Geology Trust was established in 1937, followed by the establishment of the Uzbek Geological Agency of the Committee on Geology and Subsoil Protection in the USSR in 1938.

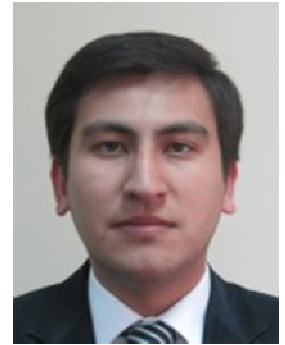
From 1941 to 1945, the Uzbek Geological Agency purposefully carried out prospecting and exploration for fuel and energy resources. From 1946 to 1957, geological researchers conducted surveys to

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explore for petroleum, gas, rare and precious metals, chemicals and industrial minerals, and construction materials. In 1957, experts from various ministries and departments were gathered to form the new General Geology and Subsoil Protection Office within the Cabinet Council. On 17 January 2007, a presidential order calling for "radical improvements [to exploration activities] through the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Geology and Mineral Resources" provided a powerful stimulus to development efforts, which have continued to the present day.

During my internship at ADRC, I would like to learn about Japanese monitoring systems and the issuance of early warnings to the public about potential landslides and mudslides. The geologic fold zone of Central Asia extends across about 56 million hectares. Many residential areas are located in river basins, and the population in these areas, which is now about 15-17 million people, is increasing. Also there are more than 3,000 glacial mountain lakes. Landslide monitoring in Uzbekistan began in 1958. At present, the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Geology and Mineral Resources manages these efforts and has established monitoring stations in seven regions. About 750 to 800 landslides are measured every year, and observations are conducted at 78 areas with a high landslide risk. These landslides all cause major landmass displacement.

As Japan is a leader in the field of disaster risk management, I would like to learn more about best practices in this country, especially about the activities of Japanese monitoring services in place for hazardous geological processes. I am confident that the knowledge I will gain will be useful in reducing the damage caused by mudslides, landslides, and earthquakes in Uzbekistan. It will also contribute to monitoring activities and the issuance of warnings in hazard-prone regions and will help improve the safety of people living in mountainous regions. Finally, I would like to thank all those who helped organize our trip to Japan, and made our visit so fruitful.

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