



ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 258
September
2014

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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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● Human Resource Development

JICA Training Course: Raising Awareness of Disaster Reduction

From 24 June to 25 July 2014, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted a training course for 10 disaster management officials from Vietnam with cooperation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kansai International Center. The training was designed to develop and implement an action plan for raising awareness of disaster reduction among the citizens of Vietnam. The ultimate goal is to ensure that the general public will be able to acquire the knowledge needed for disaster reduction, conduct preparedness and emergency response activities, and minimize damage during a disaster. Trainees attended lectures and visited central and municipal government agencies, disaster management bases, educational institutions, a meteorological organization, a broadcasting company, and NPOs in order to enhance their understanding of Japan's disaster management system and techniques. They also had a chance to visit a "rice field dam" which serves to control outflows of water from rice fields using a board. This was introduced as a good example of how an immediate effect can be achieved even on a limited budget, which is important for Vietnam, where floods cause major natural disasters. The trainees were excited to utilize what they learned in Japan to contribute to efforts aimed at promoting disaster risk reduction in their own country.

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



JICA Training Course: Comprehensive Disaster Management for Central Asia and the Caucasus 2014

ADRC conducted a training course for disaster management officials from Central Asia and the Caucasus from 23 June to 2 August with cooperation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kansai International Center. Central Asia and the Caucasus frequently experience disasters such as earthquakes, floods and landslides, some of which extend across several countries. Also, heavy snowfall in 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.

This course 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 13 central and local government officials representing six countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan in Central Asia, and Armenia and Azerbaijan in the

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Caucasus.

Participants attended lectures and visited central and municipal government agencies, research institutes, a meteorological organization, 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 map making, and went on an excursion to Niigata where landslide and erosion control countermeasures are being implemented. In addition, they visited Sendai-city and Natori-city, all of which were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, to see how recovery is progressing and to discuss lessons learned. 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****Ms. Nyo Aye (Myanmar)**

My name is Nyo Aye and I am from Myanmar. I work in the Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) of the Ministry of Social Welfare, and am presently posted as the Upper Divisional Clerk in the Coordination and Research Section of the RRD in Nay Pyi Taw, a city in Myanmar. I have also worked in the RRD's Coordination and Research Section. I joined the RRD in 2010.

Myanmar has a population of nearly 60 million and is divided into the seven primarily Myanmar ethnic regions (tain dae tha gyi) of Ayeyarwady (Irrawaddy), Bago (Pegu), Magway, Mandalay, Yangon (Rangoon), Sagaing, and Tanintharyi (Tenassarim), and the seven ethnic states (pyi nay) of Chin, Kachin, Kayin (Karen), Kayah (Karenni), Mon, Rakhine (Arakan), and Shan. Myanmar is regarded as an agricultural economy. With a total area of 676,578 km², it is the second largest country in Southeast Asia. It extends about 2,200 km north to south and about 925 km east to west. Its neighbors are China to the north and northeast, Lao PDR & Thailand to the east and southeast, and India and Bangladesh to the west. To the west and south lie the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. Myanmar is exposed to multiple natural hazards including cyclones, storm surges, floods, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts, fires, and forest fires.

Data from 2000-2001 and 2009-2012 shows that fires constituted about 73% of the reported disaster events, followed by floods (11%), storms (12%), and other disasters (4%), including earthquakes, tsunamis, and landslides. Cyclone Nargis (2008) was the worst natural disaster in the living memory of Myanmar. Currently, we are working on opening an emergency operations center (EOC) under the RRD. In addition, we are starting to use an End-to-End Early Warning System, a project on which we are cooperating with JICA, in the Ayeyarwady Region. The Disaster Management Law was ratified by the national government on 31 July 2013 and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is developing regulations for disaster management.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude and admiration to the ADRC staff for taking such good care of all of the visiting researchers.



Mr. Pradip Kumar Koirala (Nepal)

My name is Pradip Kumar Koirala and I am an Under-Secretary in the Disaster Management Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal. I have worked as a section chief in charge of studying and researching disasters at the Ministry for the past two and a half years. I have taken a variety of training courses inside and outside of Nepal related to my various jobs. It is quite natural for government employees to be transferred from one sector to another over the course of their career in order to gain broad base of experience that will facilitate our ability to serve as generalist managers.

I started my career in the Ministry of Finance and was promoted to Under-Secretary in 2002. Initially I worked as a Program Director at the National Planning Commission Secretariat for three years. I was then transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs, where I began my one-year term as a Chief District Officer at the Jumla Himalayan Range District. After that, and for nearly the past two and a half years, I have been working in the Ministry's Disaster Management Division. I am responsible for coordinating disaster management activities at both the national and international levels. I am currently also coordinating disaster management response activities and related affairs at the district level. My primary responsibility is to assist in the formulation of disaster related policies and regulations and to provide feedback to policy makers. In this capacity, I am coordinating efforts with many non-governmental actors at the same time.

I participated in a "Public Governance and Administration" training program in Singapore, a "Regional Training Workshop for Drug Abuse Prevention" in Bangkok, and a "China-Developing Countries Seminar for Economic and Administrative Officials" in Beijing. I was took part in a seminar on taxation at the National Tax Agency and National Tax Collage Japan in Tokyo in Aug-Nov, 2001. It feels like ADRC's visiting researcher program was practically made just for me, and I intend take advantage of this program to do everything I can to make even greater contributions to this field in the future. I am extremely hopeful that my research findings will be helpful for DRR from both academic and practical perspectives, in both Nepal and Japan. I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to make additional contributions to this field in the future.



● Participation in International Conferences

ADRC/IRP Attends ASEAN High-Level Conference on Assistance for the Recovery of Yolanda-Affected Areas (ARYA) in the Philippines

The ASEAN High-Level Conference on Assistance for the Recovery of Yolanda-Affected Areas (ARYA), hosted by the government of the Philippines and co-hosted by ASEAN, was held in Manila, Philippines on 14 August 2014. In support of this conference, ADRC sent one representative from IRP Secretariat to attend. The more than 200 participants included government officials from ASEAN member countries, disaster managers from across the Philippines, and experts from international organizations.

Mr. Shingo Kouchi, ADRC Senior Expert and IRP Senior Recovery Expert gave the plenary session presentation entitled "The Role of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) towards Recovery from Typhoon Yolanda: What We Have Done Thus Far and What We Can Do Going Forward." In his remarks, Mr. Kouchi expressed sincere appreciation for all of the efforts made by the government and people of the Philippine since the occurrence of this disaster. It has been widely recognized in the Philippines, as it has also been recognized in Japan, that the government and people need to promote a multi-stakeholder approach to effective disaster mitigation/prevention and reconstruction/recovery. Mr. Kouchi also stressed that ADRC and IRP have been working closely with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and many stakeholders in the Philippines, and that ADRC/IRP will continue to seek opportunities for providing technical assistance with the recovery and rehabilitation efforts being made by Yolanda-affected

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communities to enhance the current efforts being made at the government level. Focusing on the concept of “Building Back Better than Before,” ADRC is committed to promoting the development of disaster-resilient societies and communities across the Asian region by sharing Japanese technologies, experiences, and lessons learned from the past. For more information, please contact Mr. Shingo Kouchi (kouchi@recoveryplatform.org).

For Inquiries & Subscription Information

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