



ADRC Highlights

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TOPICS

Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Town-Watching for Disaster Reduction

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●Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Town-Watching for Disaster Reduction

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) has long been promoting “Town Watching” as a disaster risk reduction activity for building community capabilities in Asian countries. Town Watching for DRR is a simple and practical tool for efficiently engaging in community-based hazard mapping in local communities.

Dr. Yujiro Ogawa, ADRC’s first executive director, gave a lecture on Town Watching for a JICA training course entitled “Disaster Management for Infrastructure.”

Dr. Ogawa began by explaining the Town Watching concept to participants. Participants were then divided into two groups that then were sent out to walk around the streets of the Aotani neighborhood of Kobe along with a local police officer and fire fighter. They tried to identify both positive and negative features of the neighborhood in the context of disaster risk management. They made notes and took photographs of what they found, and each group created a community-based hazard map on which they indicated positive and negative DRR features in the Aotani area. Finally, each group discussed such questions as “What are the potential problems?” and “Who should be responsible for implementing particular countermeasures?” in front of their cohorts in the other group.

Participants noted that Town Watching activities are not very costly and yet enable for community members to learn a great deal about disaster management. The major benefit of Town Watching is that the physical involvement of participants enables them to develop more concrete images of DRR activities.



STEP1: Know Our Town / Field Survey



STEP2: Develop a Map



STEP3: Conduct Group Discussions and Make Presentations

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