

Community-Based Capacity Building in Public Schools in Armenia

Armenia

When an earthquake strikes, children are among the most vulnerable population group, especially those attending school in times of disaster. The Armenian National Survey for Seismic Protection (Armenian NSSP) has developed and implemented education and training programs addressing to needs of students and teachers at community level. Special attention is given to the adoption of the experience of world leading organizations.

Long-term successful cooperation between the Armenian NSSP and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (Kobe, Japan) resulted in special activities for earthquake disaster awareness and preparedness raising in Public Schools in Syunik Marz (Prefecture) in Armenia. The main objectives of the activities were to promote the integration of earthquake disaster risk reduction in school curricula and to promote the safe construction and retrofitting of school buildings to withstand seismic hazards. The targets of the activities were primary and secondary school children, teachers, parents, engineers, and building professionals, the Ministries of Science and Education, the Housing and Urban Development, and institutions in charge of disaster management issues, local authorities and community decision makers.

On November 14-17, 2006 the reconnaissance team comprised of specialists of the Armenian NSSP, ADRC and Kobe municipality conducted lectures and trainings at the pilot school in Kapan city of Syunik marz.

The aim of the workshop gathered a large audience, was to urge principals, teachers and students at community level to advocate for safer schools and disaster reduction education. Mr. Matsuzaki from the Kobe City Board of Education shared valuable experience gained from the Great Hanshin-Awaji 1995 Earthquake and cited realistic stories on how the Japanese have been coping with the devastating earthquake and its aftermath in Kobe, and presented situational scenarios played with the audience.



Training in N1 school, Kapan city, Syunik

Dr. Alvaro Antonyan introduced lessons learned from the Spitak 1988 Earthquake: the population

is not adequately protected, and necessary measures to secure their normal lifestyle should become a crucial priority in Armenia and the special service to help the population and develop earthquake preparedness programs has been established in Armenia i.e. the National Survey for Seismic Protection.

Furthermore, on December 6, 2006 among the framework of activities dedicated to the 18th anniversary of Spitak earthquake specialists of the Armenian NSSP carried out a special training in public school using the educational tools provided by Japanese colleagues. Though the pictures depicted Japan, children were able to imagine the given situation and give their own resolutions to the problem.

Now the educational tools in Armenia using Japanese guidelines are under development, while the approval of those tools could be disseminated at the community level for practicing.

Educational Programs in public schools of the Republic are realized through the various methods, i. e. colored books, video tapes, games, computer games, interactive plays, discussions, seminars and other means developed by local and foreign specialists. The purpose of the programs is to increase awareness and preparedness on the positive impacts of school safety and earthquake disaster risk reduction in schools, experience trainings, as well as to increase the action and use case studies to build an earthquake

preparedness capacity for students and teachers.



“The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Sugoroku”
Training in N 189 school, Yerevan

- Background	Earthquake Disaster Community-Based Risk Reduction
- Objective	Empower students and teachers in earthquake preparedness
- Term/ Time Frame	9 months
- Activities undertaken	Development and implementation of educational tools
- Major achievements	Earthquake awareness and preparedness raising
- Total budget	9950 US\$
- Contact details	Alvaro Antonyan, PhD, President, Armenian National Survey for Seismic Protection, Davidashen massive 4, 375054, Yerevan, Armenia Tel. 374 1 28-64-94, fax. 374 1 36-62-80 E-mail: president@nssp-gov.am