
5. Activities of Investigation on Disaster Damage in Asia

5-1. Investigation on Disaster of Jawa Earthquake in Indonesia

ADRC and the International Recovery Platform (IRP) have sent a preliminary damage and needs assessment team to Jakarta and Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 30 May to 4 June 2006. In Jakarta, the assessment team met Mr. Triutomo, Head of Disaster Mitigation, National Disaster Management Coordinating Board (BAKORNAS), who reports that the Indonesian government has already started conducting a damage and needs assessment in the affected area in order to formulate a recovery plan. ADRC and IRP offered to help with recovery efforts in the affected areas and confirmed their intent to assist with the institutional development of BAKORNAS.

In Yogyakarta, the team conducted a survey that included interviews with villagers and relevant organizations in heavily damaged Bantul, south of Yogyakarta. This earthquake did not cause serious damage to major infrastructural components. The city center, which is located some distance away from the Opak fault was not severely damaged, although some houses had collapsed. Rural areas along the fault, however, were severely affected by the earthquake. Most houses made of wood and bricks were totally destroyed (in some villages, more than 90% of the houses collapsed).

The team visited the area in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, when there was still a serious need for food and medical supplies, as well as for prompt housing reconstruction. According to local reports, the government planned to finish its search and rescue activities by 6 June, spend one-week on rehabilitation, and then move into the reconstruction phase, which will include housing reconstruction.

ADRC and IRP will further provide information to various experts in Indonesia through JICA or UN-led survey missions, and are willing to provide personnel or support for seminars for local government officials and the general public, if requested to do so by BAKORNAS. Detail information is as follows.

- (1) Date and time of occurrence: 11:50, May 28, 2006 (09:50 Jakarta time)
- (2) Place of occurrence: In the vicinity of Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- (3) Date and time of occurrence: 05:54, May 27, 2006 (07:54 Japan time)
- (4) Magnitude of earthquake: Magnitude (M) 6.3
- (5) Seismic center, etc: The seismic center is located 25km south of Yogyakarta, the provincial capital of the Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta, and the depth is about 10km (according to survey by U.S. Geological Survey)
- (6) Damage situation (According to Associated Press, Announcement of government authority, 15:00 May 28)

Death reached to 3,068. Casualties reached to 12,500 or over, and about 200,000 people is appeared to be affected. Many residents are seemed to be buried under fallen buildings and the number of victims could increase. As for damages to infrastructures, there is no fallen building. Airports and railways have already been recovered, and electric power and communication have also been recovered. All in all, in general, damages to major infrastructures were minor and damages are concentrated on people who lived in brick houses.

- (7) Consideration

We dispatched inspectors at a relatively early stage and investigated activities in the disaster-hit areas starting from disaster-relief stages. The reason for causing a lot of casualties for its seismic scale (M6.3) is that most of them were buried under the fallen houses. Most of such fallen houses were structured with frames of reinforced concrete and walls of sun-dried bricks. Regarding the frames of reinforced concrete, their reinforcing bars were thin, amount used was small, wrapping around the connections was insufficient, and the transverse reinforcement was also insufficient. Some concretes only had strength that they are peeled off in pieces when scraped with a fingernail. In addition,

walls made of sun-dry bricks are structurally weak, easy to be fallen, and if they fall down, they could cause very dangerous situation because they are very heavy. These houses are built by residents themselves, and it is assumed that they did not have professional knowledge.

