

5. Supporting on the HFA Implementation in Asian Region

5-1. Enhancement of Community Risk Awareness using the Methodology of Hazard Mapping for the Construction of EWS and Disaster Response

In HFA, it is necessary to strengthen the capacity of EWS for the countries, and also it is necessary to support the enhancing the regional capacity building for the regional organization. After Indian Ocean Tsunami, the establishment of EWS is recognized as a highly prioritized task in the world. And the tsunami occurred again in Indian Ocean on July 2006, the highly tsunami prone countries are eager to request further supports to establish the EWS. For the construction of the EWS and the disaster response system, it is effective to use the hazard mapping for the community's risk awareness to evacuate properly at the tsunami happened. Therefore, to disseminate the know-how of the community hazard map development in Japan, the guideline and workshop on the community based hazard mapping were organized for the national and local government officers in charge of disaster management.

5-1-1. Workshop on the "Training of Trainer on the Community based Hazard Map Development" in Dhaka, Bangladesh

The ADRC co-organized a workshop entitled "Trainers' Training Program on Community Based Hazard Map Development" with the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management of Bangladesh (MoFDM) on 28-29 November 2007. The workshop, financed by the UN/ESCAP Tsunami Regional Fund, aimed at training local officials to be trainers through community-based hazard mapping and town watching activities designed to enhance the disaster resilience of communities. Although it was held right after the catastrophic Cyclone Sidr, 19 officials in charge of disaster management came from municipalities nationwide to participate.

On the first day, the MoFDM Joint Secretary, Ms. Mosena Ferdonsni and the ADRC Executive Director, Mr. Koji Suzuki delivered opening remarks. Dr. Aslam Alam of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, and the BDPC Director Mr. Saidur Rahman then gave lectures on the natural disaster risks in Bangladesh and the Dhaka region, respectively. Dr. Yuichiro Ogawa, Dean of Fujitokoha University then lectured on urban disaster risks, citing the lessons learned from such previous Japanese disasters as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, and explained the town watching and hazard mapping method.

On the second day, town watching activities were conducted in Old Dhaka, a densely populated area that is expected to sustain the most severe damage in the event of an earthquake in Dhaka. Old Dhaka is a maze of streets in a forest of old buildings. Thus, problems related to evacuation and rescue activities are expected to occur in the aftermath of an earthquake. The trainees divided up into groups to identify the problems faced by Old Dhaka by interviewing residents in the busy streets. They displayed the problems identified on a map and discussed who should address them and in what way. Then each group gave a presentation, in which they touched on such problems as the lack of evacuation shelters, urban planning challenges, and hygiene issues not specifically related to natural disasters.

Through the two-day workshop, the trainees gained a better understanding of the natural disaster risks in Dhaka, discovered the effectiveness of creating hazard maps based on town watching activities, and learned how to engage in risk communication (methods of filling in the information gap between individuals with regard to risk) through town watching and hazard mapping.

The trainees were encouraged to recommend that these efforts be put into practice in their workplaces so as to promote their widespread implementation. The workshop video was translated into a local language and distributed to the trainees and disaster management officials.

5-1-2. Workshop on the “Training of Trainers on the Community based Hazard Map Development” in Chennai, India

The ADRC co-organized a workshop entitled “Trainers' Training Program on Community Based Hazard Map Development” with the National Disaster Management Authority of India (NDMA) on 20-21 December 2007. The workshop, financed by the UN/ESCAP Tsunami Regional Fund, aimed at training local officials to be trainers through community-based hazard mapping and town watching activities designed to enhance the disaster resilience of communities. On the first day, Prof. Chandra Vinod Menon, Member of NDMA, His Excellency Shir. Surjit Singh Baranala, the Governor of Tamil Nadu and Mr.Koji Suzuki, Executive Director, ADRC delivered opening remarks. Prof. R.Ramesh, Director of IOM, Anna University, and Mr.Anil Sinha, Program Advisor of IRP gave lectures on the “Natural disaster risks in India” and “Build Back Better Recovery”, respectively. Dr. Yuichiro Ogawa, Dean of Fujitokoha University then lectured on urban disaster risks, citing the lessons learned from such previous Japanese disasters as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, and explained the town watching and hazard mapping method.

On the second day, town watching activities were conducted in Foreshore Estate, that was situated at the coastline, and heavily damaged by the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2005. Since Foreshore Estate is situated between the Indian Ocean and Adayar Estuary, there are not enough evacuation space and route. Thus, problems related to evacuation and rescue activities are expected to occur in the aftermath of a tsunami. The participants divided up into groups to identify the problems faced by Foreshore Estate by interviewing residents in the community. They displayed the problems identified on a map and discussed who should address them and in what way. Then each group gave a presentation, in which they touched on such problems as the lack of evacuation shelters, urban planning challenges, and relocation issues.

Through the two-day workshop, the trainees gained a better understanding of the natural disaster risks in Foreshore Estate, discovered the effectiveness of creating hazard maps based on town watching activities, and learned how to engage in risk communication (methods of filling in the information gap between individuals with regard to risk) through town watching and hazard mapping.

The participants were encouraged to recommend that these efforts be put into practice in their workplaces so as to promote their widespread implementation. The workshop video was translated into a local language and distributed to the trainees and disaster management officials.

5-1-3. Establishment of the Guideline on the Community based Hazard Mapping

Through the two workshops, the guideline and the DVD on the community based hazard mapping was developed to support the trainers as support tools for dissemination of the methodology of the town watching and mapping. These materials were distributed to the national and local government officers in charge of disaster management as well as participants. We are expected to disseminate the methodology of the community based hazard mapping to our member countries as well as the both India and Bangladesh using these tools.