

## **4-2. Projects to Disseminate Disaster Reduction Knowledge Through Total Disaster Reduction Management**

ADRC has hitherto been promoting the development and dissemination of “Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM)” as the basic philosophy and strategy for enhancing the disaster reduction capabilities of its member countries. This approach was developed by ADRC and UN/OCHA, Kobe, based on the guiding principles of disaster reduction countermeasures and policies, as identified by the Central Disaster Prevention Council and stipulated in the Basic Law on Natural Disasters in Japan[That last confusing part of the sentence isn't in the original Japanese, so I deleted it.].

### **4-2-1. Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM)**

TDRM consists of the following two principles:

#### **(1) Related organizations, bodies, and individuals should cooperate and collaborate in the mobilization of resources for disaster prevention and in taking action.**

Disaster prevention measures require comprehensive and collaborative policies. Policies need to cover diverse fields including infrastructural and organizational components, including river repairs to protect against flooding, the dissemination of disaster prevention information, the development of information networks to transmit early warnings, reconstruction of daily life during recovery, and mental health care for disaster victims. It is difficult to promote these measures solely through a department specialized in disaster prevention. Rather, resources that transverse the entire organization need to be mobilized.

In many cases, disasters are of a scale that render cities, towns and villages incapable of an adequate response. Even in a small sedimentation disaster in which the stricken area is confined to a district of a single municipality, if national or prefectural roads are damaged or rivers under the control of state or prefecture are affected, it is impossible to limit the response to the level of the municipal government alone.

Moreover, it is important to note that disaster prevention is not a task for the administration alone. As became apparent in the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of January 17, 1995, there are limits to the response capabilities of a local government in an event of large-scale disaster. Disaster reduction measures must address those tasks in the local communities that will not necessarily be handled by the local administration, regardless of how big or small the disaster might be. Even at the individual level, people need to know where and how to evacuate to a neighboring district, and what valuables and necessities should be brought along with them during an evacuation.

There are also areas in which services are provided by private enterprises, such as communication services, lifeline utilities, and insurance companies, and these play an indispensable role in disaster prevention. When a large-scale disaster occurs in a developing country, it is often difficult for the country to provide emergency measures and promote restoration using only its own resources, which may be limited both in quantity and sophistication. In Aceh, Indonesia, which was one of the areas hit hardest by the 2004 Tsunami Disaster in the Indian Ocean, the government had to request international support from many countries, donor organizations, NGOs, and other parties, and needed to utilize technologies and funds provided by organizations like JICA and the World Bank to construct and restore housing.

This shows that the efficient and effective promotion of disaster prevention requires that measures be taken that transverse related fields and organizations, and that cooperation and coordination both inside and outside of country be pursued.

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**(2) Measures should be conducted in a way that takes into consideration the four stages of a disaster: the prevention and mitigation of damages (disaster reduction), disaster preparedness, emergency measures immediately after a disaster, and the restoration and reconstruction of affected areas and residents.**

Disaster reduction measures tend to focus on the emergency response after a disaster. Scenes of disaster-stricken areas are broadcast by CNN, the BBC and many other overseas media who report on the relief activities of domestic and overseas donor organizations, NGOs, and others who have rushed to the site. Needless to say, conducting rescue activities, providing medical care for the injured, supplying food and water, constructing emergency housing, and other humanitarian efforts are urgently needed, and it is essential that resources be sent to the disaster-stricken area at that stage.

Many ADRC member countries clearly recognize the importance of emergency response in the event of disaster from the fact that “Emergency Situation” is included in the title of their national government departments in charge of emergency response measures, that is, their ADRC counterparts. However, it should not be forgotten that the impacts of a disaster could be reduced if measures are taken to anticipate what might happen and to prepare ourselves beforehand. By reinforcing embankments, we can develop river environments that can withstand flooding. In combating cyclical disasters like typhoons and cyclones, we may be able to dramatically reduce the disaster impacts if we can observe their routes, estimate their course, and warn residents who live in their path.

On the other hand, the restoration and reconstruction efforts that start when the emergency response phase is over, after the stricken areas have reached a tentative calm, are not only about the recovery of life and economic activities in the disaster areas, but also about taking the opportunity to implement measures for minimizing the impact of the next disaster. Merely restoring an area to the state it was in just before the disaster will result in the same suffering after the next disaster. At this stage, we can significantly enhance the ability of the entire disaster area to respond to future disasters by, for example, expanding the width of narrow roads, replacing fragile houses with earthquake-proof structures, and adding diversity to economies that are heavily reliant on agriculture or fisheries.

In 1961, following the typhoon that hit Ise Bay in Japan in 1959, the Basic Law on Natural Disasters was enacted and the measures taken, which have been implemented separately, were put under the synthetic and cooperative control of the Central Disaster Prevention Council [Meaning unclear. Need Japanese.]. The focus also shifted from countermeasures focused on emergency provisions to all stages of disaster reduction, including preventive measures. This was the time when Japan was entering a period of high economic growth, so it seemed that paying attention to disaster prevention was an enlightened approach, especially as individual assets were increasing as a result of economic development.

In Asia, meanwhile, since the establishment of ADRC, new systems resembling the Central Disaster Prevention Council of Japan have been established in countries like India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, and systems to promote measures for disaster prevention across various fields are being consolidated. In Sri Lanka, in particular, a system similar to that of Japan, chaired by the president and consisting of members from related government offices, specialists, and NGOs, has been established (the National Council for Disaster Management – NCDM). Given that the leader of the opposition party is included among the members of the NCDM, the country is now positioned to establish a disaster prevention system with united backing throughout the country. Sri Lanka has established the Disaster Management Center (DMC) as part of its Ministry of Disaster Prevention and Human Rights, which functions as the secretariat of the NCDM in the same way that the Cabinet Office functions as the secretariat of the CDPC [Confirm] in Japan.

As noted above, systems conforming to TDRM have been implemented in many Asian countries. In several countries, however, disaster prevention systems focused on emergency measures are still in the mainstream, such that continued efforts must be made to promote TDRM.

#### **4-2-2. Activities to Educate People About TDRM**

ADRC has emphasized the importance of the concept of Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) and has conducted various activities, including seminars and lectures, to disseminate this concept, which is compatible with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).