

5. Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries, International Organizations and NGOs

5-1. Urban Search-and-Rescue Training in Singapore

Asia is the most disaster-prone region in the world. The natural disasters that have occurred here in recent years have been the most severe, prolonged and widespread ever experienced in the region. Moreover, the regional vulnerability tends to increase due to rapid urbanization, insufficient speed in building an infrastructure capable of coping with urbanization, the coupling of independent risk sources (interaction of natural hazards with chemical, technological, lifestyle, and social risks), and insufficient management capacity.

The Singaporean government holds an annual training course for search and rescue officers, and over the past eleven years, the course has included trainees from outside Singapore. Training is provided on the search-and-rescue expertise required in urban disaster situations. The training facility complex of the Civil Defence Academy (CDA) of the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) is one of the most advanced facilities in Asia. In an effort to utilize their expertise and facilities, ADRC has been inviting fire fighters and rescuers from member countries to participate in this training course since 2001. In 2010, this training course was held from 18 to 29 October. ADRC invited 3 officers from member countries, Bhutan, Mongolia and Maldives.

[Training program]

A) Lectures

Principles of USAR operations, International marking system, Overseas mission sharing, Confined-space rescue operations, Emergency behavior management, Single/Mass Casualty Management, INSARAG System

B) Drills & Practice

BA search procedures and techniques, Evacuation of casualties with/without equipment, High angle rescue techniques, Shoring methods, Simulation exercises

Table 5-1-1 Countries of past participants within 5 years

Year	Countries of past participants
2006	Lao PDR, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and Vietnam
2007	Bangladesh, Korea, Nepal, Philippines
2008	Bhutan, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Mongolia
2009	Armenia, Sri Lanka
2010	Bhutan, Mongolia, Maldives