

4-2. Seminars and Training Course

4-2-1. JICA Training Course: “Comprehensive Disaster Management for Central Asia and Caucasus”

From 24 June to 3 August 2013, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted a training course for disaster management officials from Central Asia and the Caucasus in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kansai International Center.

The course was conducted in Russian and attended by a total of 13 central and local government officials representing five countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan in Central Asia, and Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Caucasus.

The training was designed to convey basic knowledge and experiences related to natural disaster management, and to further promote the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in the participants' countries. During the training, participants were asked to identify a major problem in their own countries and to formulate an action plan for addressing it. They attended lectures and visited central and municipal government agencies, research institutes, a meteorological organization, a broadcasting company, a disaster management base, private companies, UN offices, and an NPO in order to comprehensively enhance their understanding of Japan's disaster management system. They also participated in “Town Watching” activities for hazard map making, and went on an excursion to the Shikoku Mountain Range where landslide and erosion control countermeasures are being implemented.

Central Asia and the Caucasus frequently experience disasters such as floods, droughts, landslides, and earthquakes, some of which extend across several countries. Also, heavy snowfall in the winter can lead to flooding when mountain glaciers thaw in the warmer seasons. Thus, these regions have common concerns in terms of disaster risk management. It is hoped that the participants will make good use of the knowledge, technologies, and methods they learned from the training course to implement various projects and help strengthen the disaster management systems in their home countries.

This course also allowed participants to reinforce their relationships with one another, and is expected to strengthen disaster management information networks in the region.

In addition to the training held in Japan, the ADRC participated in the JICA Follow-Up Seminar "Comprehensive Disaster Management" held at the Center of Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR) in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 14-15 August 2013. This seminar was held as a follow-up to the JICA training course



Fig. 4-2-1 Lecture at the Cabinet Office

entitled “Comprehensive Disaster Management for Central Asia and the Caucasus” that ADRC has been conducting together with JICA Kansai. To facilitate the transfer of Japan’s experience and expertise regarding disaster risk management, this seminar focused on a few themes of interest to the Kazakh government, namely the seismic safety of buildings, community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM), and the operation of regional disaster management centers.

Approximately 40 people participated, including the deputy mayor of Almaty City, national and local government officials from the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Almaty City, and researchers from KazNIISA (Agency for Construction, Housing and Utilities of the Republic of Kazakhstan) and other institutions. During the seminar, ADRC introduced CBDRM efforts that have been undertaken in Japan, including the activities of volunteer organizations specializing in disaster prevention, and efforts to promote disaster education and raise disaster awareness. Given the agreement reached between the governments of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in May 2013 regarding the establishment of the CESDRR, ADRC shared information on its own activities since it was first formed in 1998, in hopes that this might serve as useful information for the management of the CESDRR going forward. ADRC also learned a lot about the Kazakh DRR experience through this seminar. We look forward to working with JICA and the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Kazakhstan, as well as the CESDRR, in the near future.

4-2-2. JICA Training Course: “Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Course”

From 7 January to 21 February 2014, ADRC, in collaboration with JICA conducted the JICA Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Course for 8 countries, namely Afghanistan, Fiji, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Tanzania, Vanuatu, and Yemen. Fifteen government officials in charge of disaster management took part in the training. This course aimed to help participants formulate and further develop disaster management plans in their own countries based on the concept of total disaster risk management, by enhancing their understanding of the disaster management systems adopted by the central and local governments of Japan.

During the training, participants attended a series of lectures on such topics as the Japanese disaster management system at the central and local levels, Japanese measures against earthquake, flooding, landslides and volcanic eruptions, school disaster education, community-based disaster risk management, the role of the media in disaster risk reduction, and recovery from natural disasters. They participated in a drill conducted by a Disaster Prevention Welfare Community in Kobe, the ADRC’s town watching exercise, and the Memorial Walk of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, in addition to visiting disaster-affected areas of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Mt. Unzen Fugen’s volcanic eruption.

The trainees showed great interest in Japanese disaster management systems and efforts at disaster risk reduction and were keen to learn from every lecture and exercise offered during this training course. It is hoped that the participants will make good use of the knowledge and methods they learned during this training course to help strengthen the disaster management systems in their home countries.



Fig. 4-2-2-1 Memorial Walk on 17 January 2014



Fig. 4-2-2-2 Visit to the affected area of Mt. Unzen Fugen’s volcanic eruption

4-2-3. JICA Training Course: “Raising Awareness of Disaster Reduction”

From 7 January to 7 February 2014, ADRC, in collaboration with JICA, conducted a JICA training course on “Raising Awareness of Disaster Reduction” for government officials in charge of disaster risk reduction at the central and local government levels. Representatives from the countries of Brazil, Chili, Honduras, Myanmar, Viet Nam, PNG, Philippines, Samoa, and Turkey took part in this training (19 trainees from 9 countries). The primary objective of the training was to establish concrete disaster reduction measures tailored to each participant’s country, utilizing knowledge and methods gained from the training.

During the training, participants learned the roles to be played by the various relevant organizations, such as local authorities, academic organizations, the Japan Meteorological Agency, mass media, and NPOs, while attending lectures and occasionally visiting related facilities and organizations. The training included the following specific activities:



- (1) town watching and hazard map creation, in which the trainees explored a certain area of downtown, identified risks, and came up with solutions,
- (2) a visit to the disaster-stricken area of the Great East Japan Earthquake
- (3) lectures on the formation of action plans, during which the trainees developed their own action plans.

The trainees are expected not only to carry out their action plans upon returning home, but also to apply the knowledge and methods they learned during their training and to promote efforts to raise awareness of disaster risk reduction measures.