

4-2. Seminars and Training Course

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

ADRC conducted a training course for disaster management officials from Central Asia and the Caucasus from 23 June to 2 August 2014 with cooperation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kansai International Center. Central Asia and the Caucasus frequently experience disasters such as earthquakes, floods and landslides, some of which extend across several countries. Also, heavy snowfall in 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.

This course aims 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 trainees' countries. Trainees were asked to identify a major problem in their own countries and to formulate an action plan for addressing it.

The course was conducted in Russian, with 13 central and local government officials representing six countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan in Central Asia, and Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Caucasus. Participants attended lectures and visited central and municipal government agencies, research institutes, a meteorological organization, a disaster management base, private companies, and a UN office in order to comprehensively enhance their understanding of the disaster management system. They also participated in community activities, such as “Town Watching,” which involved hazard map making, and went on an excursion to Niigata where landslide and erosion control countermeasures are being implemented. In addition, they visited Sendai-city and Natori -city, all of which were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, to see how recovery is progressing and to discuss lessons learned.

It is hoped that the participants will make good use of the knowledge, technologies, and methods they learned during this training course to implement various projects and help strengthen the disaster management systems in their home countries. ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all the organizations that contributed to the success of this course.



Fig. 4-2-1-1 Millennium Hope Hills, Iwanuma City

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

From 5 January to 21 February 2014, ADRC, in collaboration with JICA conducted the JICA Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Course for 10 countries, namely Bhutan, Burundi, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Tajikistan, Macedonia, Cuba and Malaysia. Sixteen 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 town watching



Fig. 4-2-2-2 unmanned construction system of Mt. Unzen Fugen’s area

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

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted a training course for disaster management personnel of administrative and research institute in the developing country for purpose of raising awareness of disaster reduction in their country as the following.

The training was designed to develop an action plan and to implement it for raising awareness of disaster reduction among the citizens of those countries.

The ultimate goal is to ensure that the general public will be able to acquire the knowledge needed for disaster reduction, conduct preparedness and emergency response activities, and minimize damage during a disaster.

(1) Raising Awareness of Disaster Reduction (A)

This training was conducted for 10 disaster management officials from Vietnam by Vietnamese language from 24 June to 25 July 2014.

Trainees attended lectures and visited central and municipal government agencies, disaster management bases, educational institutions, a meteorological organization, a broadcasting company, and NPOs in order to enhance their understanding of Japan's disaster management system and techniques.

Especially, they had a chance to visit a “rice field dam” which serves to control outflows of water from rice fields using a board. This was introduced as a good example of how an immediate effect can be achieved even on a limited budget, which is important for Vietnam, where floods cause major natural disasters.

The trainees were excited to utilize what they learned in Japan to contribute to efforts aimed at promoting disaster risk reduction in their own country in the final presentation of their action plan.



Fig. 4-2-3-1 rice field dam

(2) Raising Awareness of Disaster Reduction (B)

This training was conducted for 12 disaster reduction personnel from the following 6 countries, Brazil, Chile, Honduras, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Samoa by English from 6 January to 6 February 2015.

Trainees attended lectures and visited central and municipal government agencies, disaster management bases, educational institutions, a meteorological organization, a broadcasting company, and NPOs in order to enhance their understanding of Japan's disaster management system and techniques.

Particularly, they were impressed with the quick and exact primary information sharing under the collaboration between the Meteorological Agency, NHK(Japan Broadcasting Association), Newspaper Company and Mobile Internet Company, regarding early warning system.

The trainees were very interested in the efforts of disaster reduction in Japan and eagerly participated every lecture and observation and finally made presentation of action plan for own country.