

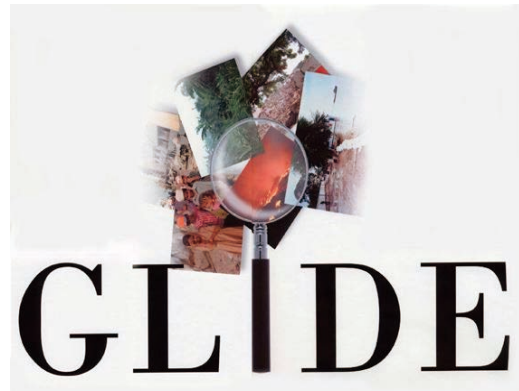
## **2-2. Study of GLIDE spread**

### **2-2-1. What is GLIDE**

GLIDE is the acronym of Global unique disaster IDentifier, which gives common but unique numbers to disasters all over the world. GLIDE was firstly proposed by ADRC and has been adopted and used in more than 20 international organizations, research institutes and so on.

ADRC has its own criteria for new GLIDE generation. In case of Japan, a new GLIDE number will be generated for a disaster in which either 5 or more people are killed or 100 or more people are

injured. In case of Asian countries except Japan, a new GLIDE number will be generated for a disaster in which either 10 or more people are killed or 100 or more people are injured.



### **2-2-2. History of GLIDE**

There are many organizations around the world that design and develop their own disaster databases for free access over the Internet. When a disaster occurs, information is distributed over the Internet not only by organizations in the affected countries but also by organizations and the mass media in other countries. ADRC, whenever a disaster occurs in any part of the world, collects information from websites of relevant organizations and news agencies all over the world, or by sending e-mails to contact persons in the affected area. The “ADRC Latest Disaster Information” on its website is the result of the ADRC's efforts in collecting information on disasters.

Based on the experiences, ADRC found some problems in collecting disaster information with abovementioned conventional methods. Those include:

- (1) Huge manpower is needed to search the Internet for websites of relevant individual organizations every time a disaster occurs.
- (2) There exists no standardized naming protocol for disasters. As many different names are given to a certain single disaster by various organizations, even search engines such as Google or Yahoo sometimes return no hits.
- (3) Website links may be lost when the structure of the database or homepage of an organization is modified.

GLIDE is a solution to these problems. It significantly improves the efficiency of retrieval of information on historical and on-going disasters from databases and the websites.

At the Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN) Conference held in Canberra, Australia in March 2001, ADRC proposed to develop a standardized code system for managing

---

---

information on disasters around the world. This proposal, then, was accepted as a pilot project of GDIN.

In 2004, glidnumber.net was jointly developed by ADRC and the UNOCHA ReliefWeb with technical assistance from LaRED (disaster database in Latin America) in order to issue new GLIDE numbers to disasters immediately after their occurrence. Moreover, ADRC, Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), IRI/Columbia University, USAID/OFDA, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and UNISDR Secretariat (current UNDRR) agreed to use the GLIDE number format as the standard format for disaster identification numbers. In present, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), Joint Research Centre (JRC/EC), etc. are utilized to descriptor disasters.

The GLIDE number format was revised in 2004 as follows:

AA-BBBB-CCCCCC-DDD-EEE

AA: Disaster classification

Drought	DR
Heat Wave	HW
Cold Wave	CW
Tropical Cyclone	TC
Extratropical Cyclone	EC
Tornado	TO
Violent Wind	VW
Severe Local Storm	ST
Flood	FL
Flash Flood	FF
Land Slide	LS
Snow Avalanche	AV
Mud Slide	MS
Volcano	VO
Earthquake	EQ
Fire	FR
Tsunami	TS
Storm Surge	SS
Epidemic	EP
Insect Infestation	IN
Wild Fire	WF
Others	OT
Complex Emergency	CE
Technological	AC

BBBB: Year of occurrence (4-digit numeric figure)

CCCCCC: Serial number in one year

DDD: Country code (ISO code. e.g., JPN for Japan)

EEE: Local code (e.g., 013 for Tokyo)

The local code at the end could be added for the convenience of the user countries in organizing their national databases.

This format is still in use among GLIDE issuing organizations.

Databases incorporated GLIDE numbers will have the following advantages:

- (1) A parameterized search function allows for user organizations easy connection between pieces of disaster information archived by various organizations.
- (2) A search engine, developed with the focus placed on particularly important information for user organizations, allows a one-stop search and display of all the necessary data, eliminating the need of repeating further search for data archived separately by individual organizations.

### **2-2-3. Current Challenges of GLIDE**

#### **(1) Issues in Operation**

Different international organizations including the ADRC, UNOCHA Relief Web, IFRC and LaRED are currently entitled to issue GLIDE numbers. Since some organizations have been carrying out operations that were not initially conceived, a Steering Committee should be set up to discuss problems with GLIDE operation in consideration of promotion of future use, and at the same time, ADRC should consider to set up GLIDE exclusively assigned staff in the office.

#### **(2) Systematic issues of GLIDE website**

Glidenumber.net, the web page providing GLIDE numbers, has the following three problems, which requires us to take measures for further improvement.

The first point is the problem of search engine. The GLIDE search engine sometimes leads to the information which does not match the keywords.

The second point is the strengthening of security measures. In order to protect server system from various external attacks and to provide stable services, measures such as secure coding and encryption are urgently needed.

The third point is the strengthening of comprehensive service functions. GLIDE plays an important role to develop/operate disaster damage statistics which mentioned at SFDRR. Expectations for GLIDE are increasing, such as strengthening cooperation with external organizations with GCDS and Relief Web, and updating registered disaster information. It is necessary to share the future image of GLIDE with the relevant organizations in the aforementioned Steering Committee, and to proceed to develop based on the roadmap.