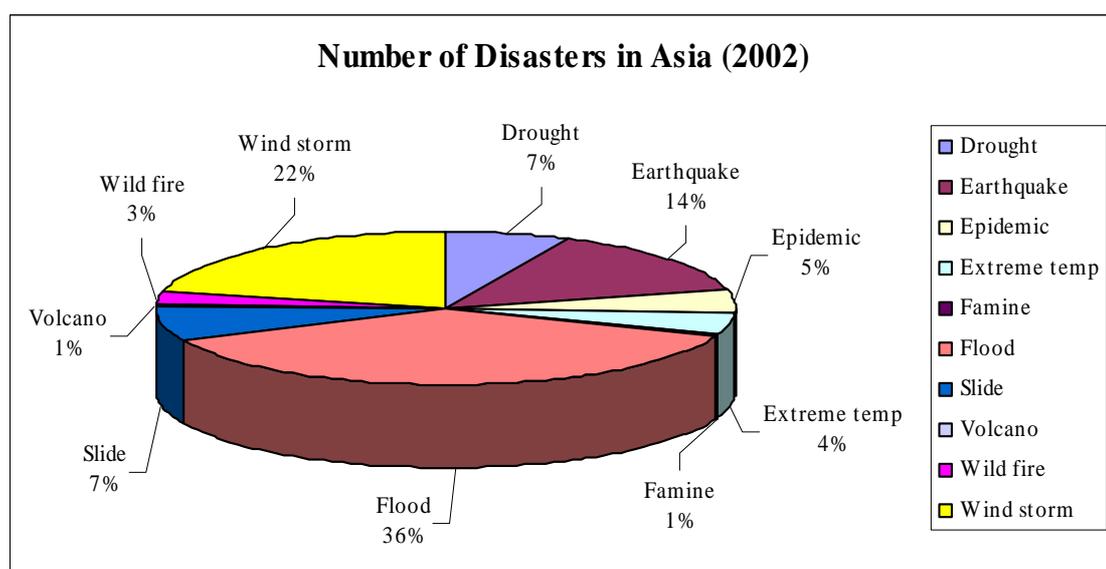


3.2.3 Characteristics of Disasters in Asia:

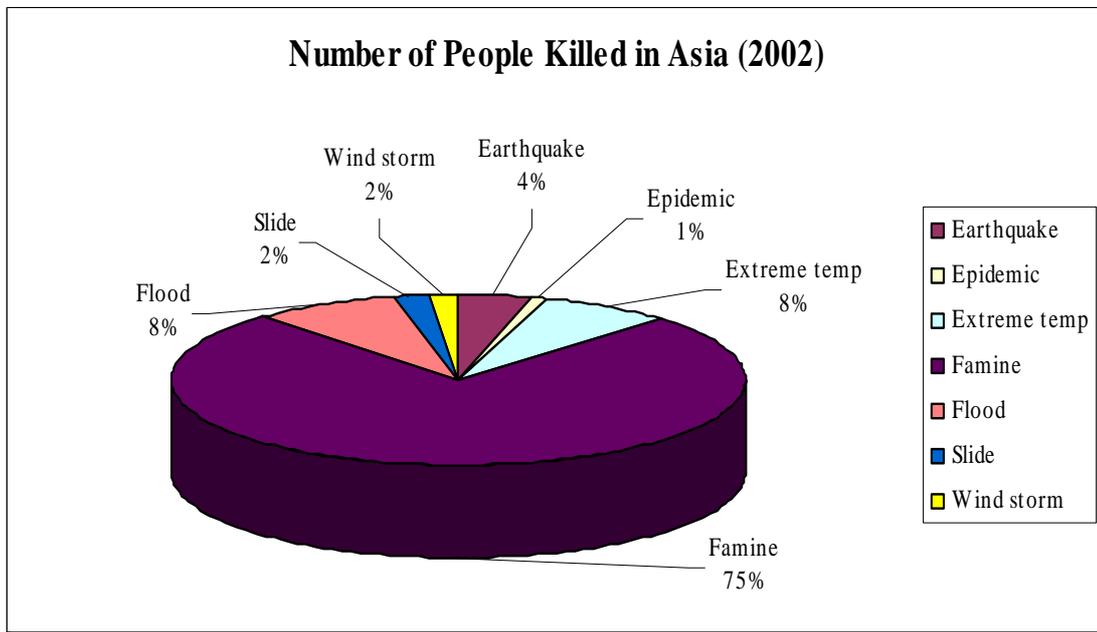
In the earlier section, it was demonstrated that the Asian region is highly vulnerable to natural disasters. The same trend will also be observed in the following discussion. According to Figure 27, windstorms and floods have occurred at a greater rate than other disasters. About 58% of occurred disasters that occurred in Asia were windstorms and floods, followed by earthquakes with 14%. It is noteworthy to observe in relation that famine has caused the greatest human loss (Figure 28), though its other characteristics are almost negligible. This is due to the famine in North Korea in 2002. Once again it is evident from Figure 29 that droughts, floods, and windstorms caused severe human suffering in Asia as almost all the people affected by natural disasters in the region in 2002 were affected by these types of disasters. Further, most of the economic damage, nearly 99%, was also due to these types of disasters. Hence, it can be concluded that the Asian region is not only a disaster prone area but also vulnerable to hydro meteorological disasters.

Figure 27:



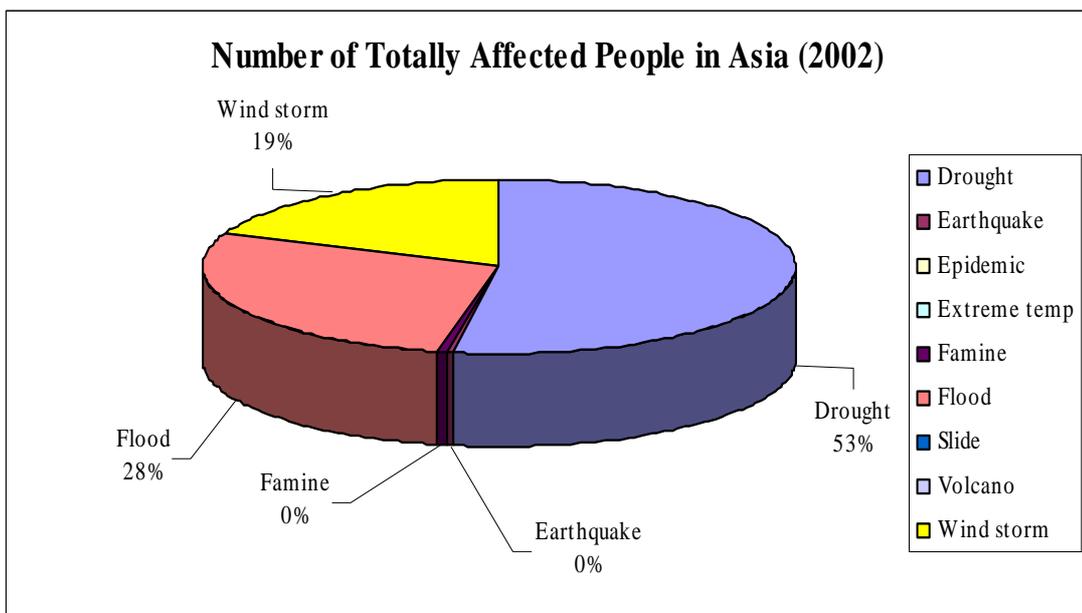
Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002

Figure 28:



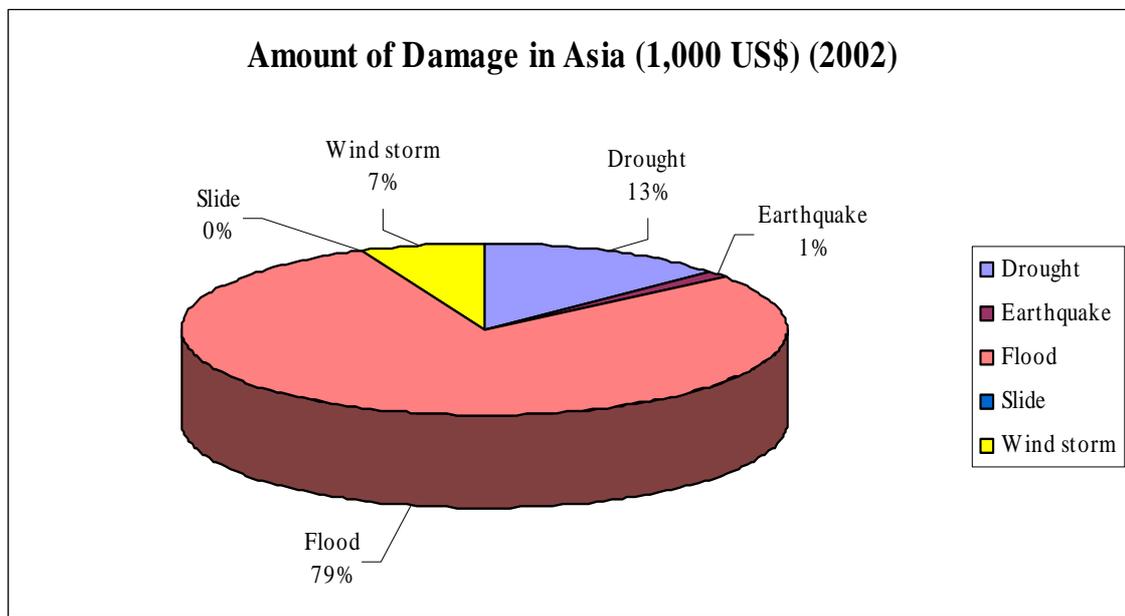
Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002

Figure 29:



Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002

Figure 30:



Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002