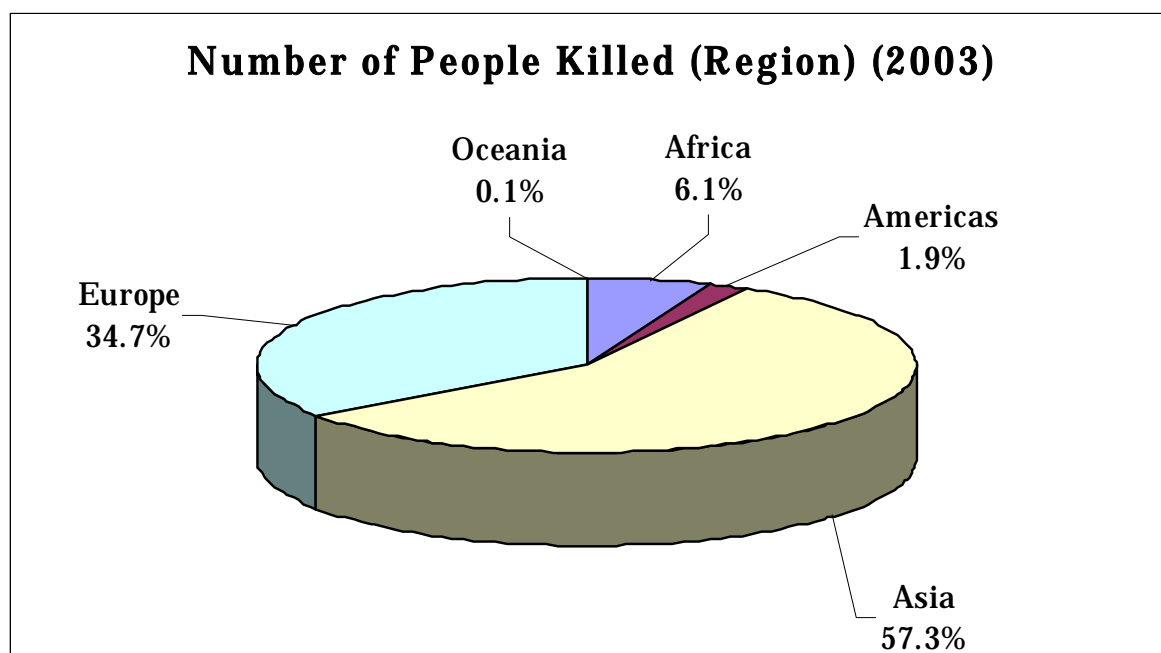


1.2 Vulnerability of Asia:

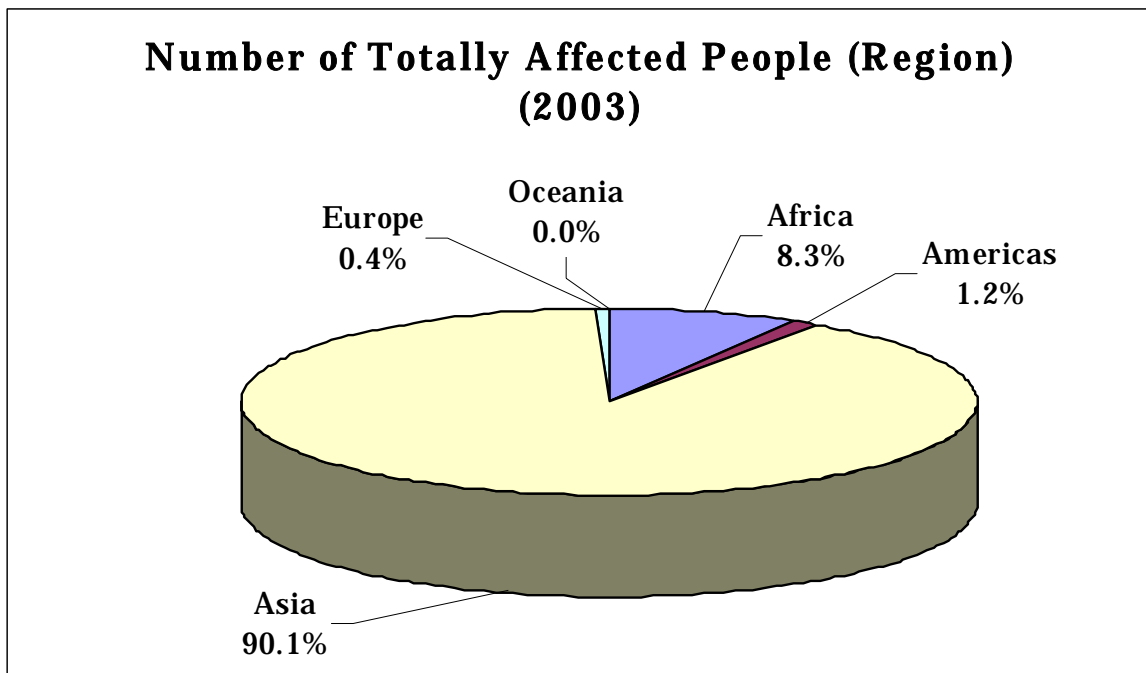
As we look at the following figures in relation to the Asian region, it is quite evident that the region is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters. The majority of the human loss and suffering is reported from this region in the year 2003, as in the previous years. Specifically, nearly 90% of the totally affected people and 57% of the human loss are reported from Asia. Further, in 2003, the majority of the economic loss caused by disasters is reported from Asia, followed by America, Europe and Africa. This phenomenon is due to the natural disasters hit Korea (Typhoon Maemi), China (Flood), USA (Wind Storm) and Iran (Bam Earthquake). In contrast, other than Asia, second largest number of deaths was reported from Europe and this is due to the extreme temperature and heat wave hit the entire Europe.

Figure 3:



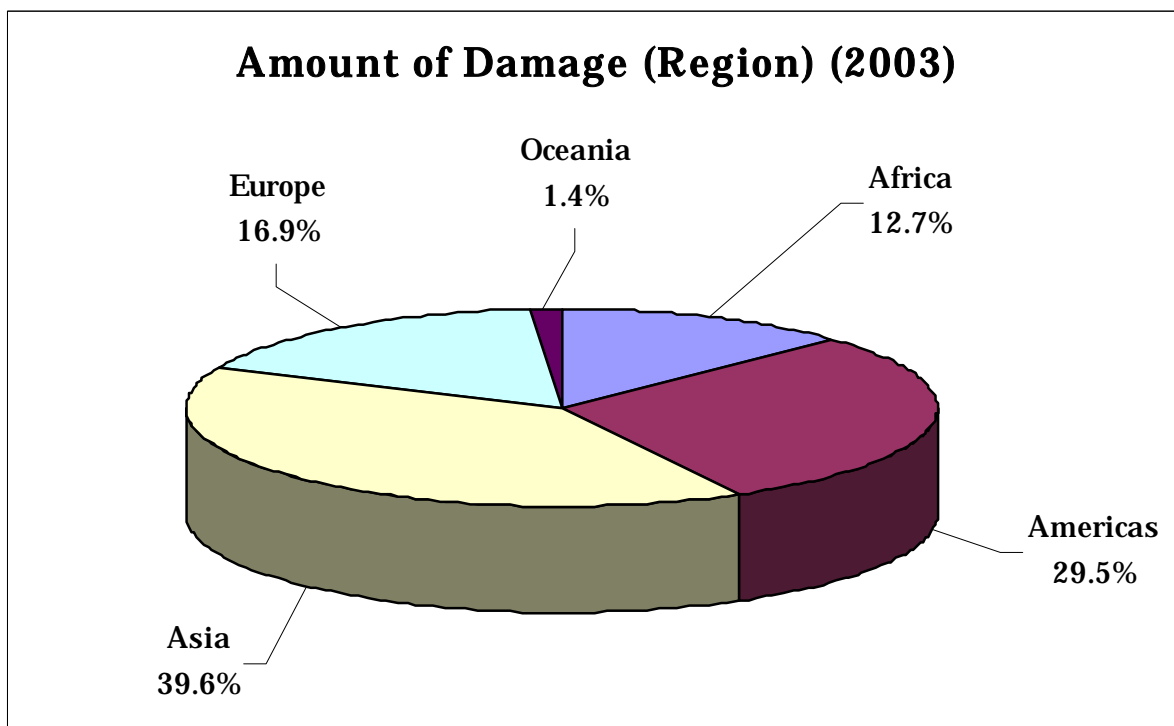
Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2003

Figure 4:



Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2003

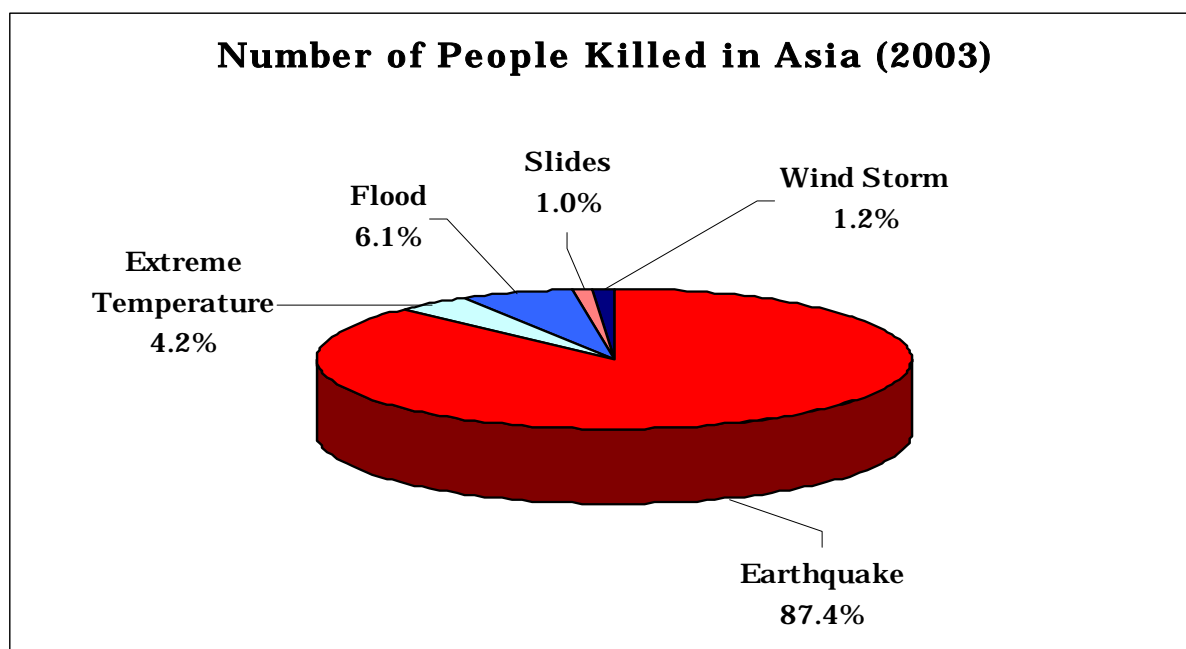
Figure 5:



Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2003

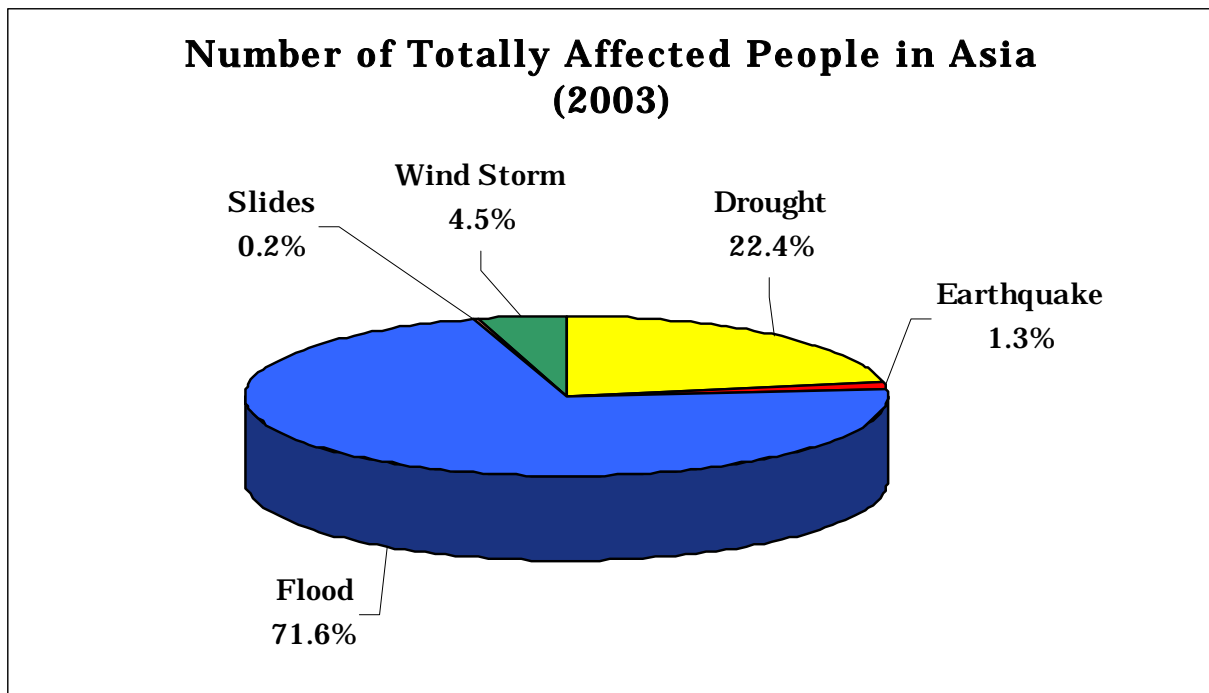
According to the data on disaster type and impact on society and the economy in 2003, the Asian region is highly affected by hydro meteorological disasters like droughts, floods, and windstorms. It can be seen from past analytical studies of disasters and the ADRC's "20th Century Asian Natural Disasters Data Book". Socio-economic and cultural dimensions specific to the Asian region are also two of the reasons for the great number of affected people, though the real economic damage is comparatively small. The great amount of human suffering in this region substantially hinders development activities. Following figures illustrate this trend clearly. Furthermore, the following chapters help us to understand regional differences in the characteristics of disaster in relation to disaster types.

Figure 6:



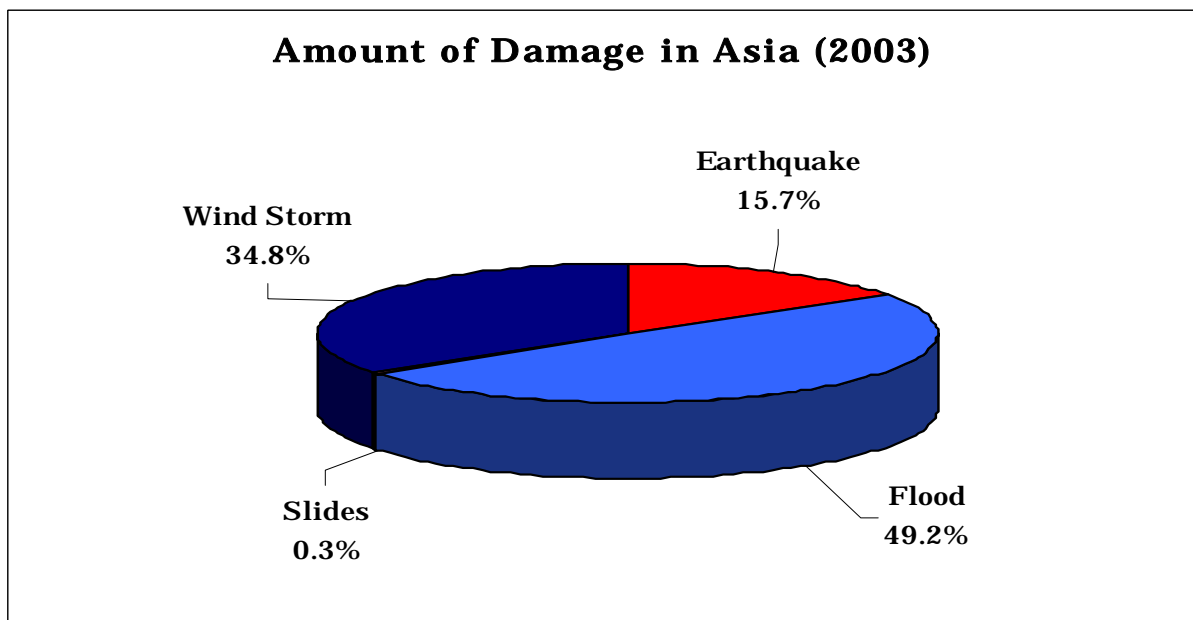
Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2003

Figure 7:



Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2003

Figure 8:



Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2003