



ADRC Highlights Vol.64

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

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➤ **ADRC Cooperative Project FY2002** □ **Workshop on Disaster Mgmt. for Media in Lao PDR**

The Workshop on Disaster Management for Media was held in Thalath, Vientiane Province, Lao PDR from February 4-7, 2003. It was attended by His Excellency Mr. Somphanh Phengkhammy, Chairman of the National Disaster Management



Opening Remarks by H.E. Mr. Phengkhammy

Committee of the Minister of Labor and Social Welfare. This conference is one part of the "Lao – ADRC cooperative project: Human Resources Development on Disaster Management."

Media plays an important role in early warning information dissemination, public awareness, and various kinds of information provision during disasters. 40 participants from central and provincial media agencies participated in the workshop enthusiastically. Meteorology Department, Fire Protection Department, Federation of Lao Red Cross, ADRC, UN OCHA Kobe and Japan Weather Association provided lectures.



Participants of the Workshop

Following the opening session, there were several presentations on disasters in Lao PDR, the current disaster management system in Lao PDR, and the latest techniques for disaster management. These included lessons learnt from flood disaster in 2002, the disaster management strategy cycle in Lao PDR, the role of readership in disaster management, public awareness, risk assessment, climate forecasting, and early warning information.

The National Disaster Management Office of Lao PDR plans to hold another Workshop for Local Government Officials in March. For more detailed information on the workshop, please contact Mr. Fumiaki Yoshimura (yoshimura@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **The 7th Earthquake Technology Expo in Kobe and Yokohama, Japan**

The 7th Earthquake Technology Expo was held in Kobe on the 30th and 31st of January, and in Yokohama on the 6th and 7th of February. About 10,000 people visited the exhibition. More than 20 seminars and symposiums on disaster reduction and management were held in conjunction with the Expo.

ADRC participated in the poster session to introduce our activities both in Kobe and in Yokohama. In addition, our Executive Director, Mr. Satoru Nishikawa made an opening speech in Kobe on behalf of the

supporters of the Expo.

In Yokohama, ADRC also displayed a prototype headset camera and portable IP-VSAT used for gathering visual damage information in disaster areas utilizing the latest space technology, which was developed in cooperation with NASDA (National Space Development Agency of Japan), CRL (Communications Research Laboratory, Japan), and ADRC. There was also a video presentation that introduced experiments with the equipment and explained the expected efficacy of the device as an information-gathering tool for large-scale disasters.



For more detailed information on the Expo., please contact Mr. Araki (araki@adrc.or.jp) or Mr. Arakida (arakida@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **Conference Information** □ **ISDR and ADRC joint session at the 3rd World Water Forum (WWF3) in Japan**

The 3rd World Water Forum will take place in Kyoto, Shiga, and Osaka from the 16th to the 23rd of March. During the Forum, the ISDR (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) Secretariat and ADRC are jointly organizing a session entitled "Living with Risk - Towards Effective Disaster Reduction", coordinated by the Asian Development Bank under the theme "Water and Poverty", to be held from 15:40 to 18:30 on the 19th of March in Takaragaike Prince Hotel, Kyoto. The session will provide an opportunity to explore the linkages between disaster reduction and the water agenda.

For more information on the session, please contact [Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki](mailto:Ms.Etsuko.Tsunozaki@un.org) or [Mr. John Harding](mailto:Mr.John.Harding@un.org) of UN/ISDR. For information on how to participate in the Forum, please visit [the WWF3 website](http://www.wwf3.org).

➤ **Recent Natural Disasters in Asia** □ **Floods in Jakarta, Indonesia**

Serious floods triggered by overnight torrential rain inundated streets and homes in Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia on Thursday, February 13, 2003. There were no immediate reports of casualties in the latest flooding, although water levels reached waist height in several areas of west and south Jakarta. (2003/02/13 BBC News etc.)

□ **Heavy rain caused severe damage to Pakistan**

On Monday, February 17, 2003, floods and flash floods triggered by heavy winter rains caused severe damage to people in and around the southern port city of Karachi, Pakistan. It was the area's heaviest rainfall of short duration in 110 years. Twenty-seven have died and more than 100 people have been injured. Heavy rains and violent winds have also lashed western India and Afghanistan inflicting considerable damage to the area. (2003/02/18 CNN News etc.)

If you have comments or requests for this Newsletter, please write to ADRC at the address on the right.

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