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Highlights

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➤ **Cooperative Project with the Kyrgyz Republic**
□ **Seminars on Capacity Building of the Population held in Bishkek and Osh**

The Ministry of Emergency Situations (MoES) of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) co-organized two seminars on 6 (Bishkek) and 7 (Osh) February 2006. The two seminars were conducted in the context of the co-operative project «Capacity Building of the Population of the Kyrgyz Republic in Disaster Reduction and Disaster Preparedness» being carried out by the two organizations. The objectives of the project were to: (1) raise awareness of the population, (2) increase their knowledge and skills, and (3) incorporate a comprehensive disaster reduction approach in their daily life. To this end, MoES published a set of documents: (a) manual for the population, (b) cartographical manual, (c) training manual, (d) action programme, (e) maps of administrative districts, most of which came out both in English and Russian.

The seminar held in Osh was inaugurated by Mr. B.R. Aidaraliev, First Deputy Minister of MoES, and the one in Bishkek, by Mr. A. K. Camchibekov, Deputy Minister of MoES. Mr. Masayuki Kitamoto, Executive Director of ADRC, congratulated MoES on the development of the comprehensive training/educational materials and on the successful conduct of the seminars, emphasizing that the effective use of the materials is the key to enhancing disaster preparedness of the people. The TDRM (Total Disaster Risk Management) approach, which should be widely adopted in the Kyrgyz Republic, was introduced by Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki, Senior Researcher of ADRC. Ms. Dilor Mirova, MoES & Civil Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan and a former Visiting Researcher of ADRC, made a presentation based on her experiences with MoES Tajikistan and ADRC, including some recommendations useful for the Kyrgyz Republic. A team from the Department of Emergencies Monitoring, Forecasting and Mining Tailing Management of MoES made a presentation on the training/educational materials developed. MoES will further disseminate and promote these materials with a view to enhancing the capacity of the people of the country to live with disaster risks. For more information, please contact Prof. Sheishenaly E. Usupaev,



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➤ **The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2006 will be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea**

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2006 will be held from 15 to 17 March 2006 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The Conference will be organized by the Government of Republic of Korea, Government of Japan, United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). It will be attended by more than 120 people including officers in the field of disaster management, meteorology, and hydrology in Asian countries, experts involved in disaster reduction, representatives of UN agencies and international organizations, academia, media, NGOs, private sector, etc.

The ACDR 2006 to be held one year after the WCDR aims to review the progress made, identify the challenges, and promote the implementation of disaster risk reduction in the context of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, with a view to ensuring sustainable social and economic development in the Asian region. For more information, please visit <http://web.adrc.or.jp/acdr2006seoul/index.html>.

➤ **Recent Natural Disasters in Asia:**
□ **Mudslide in the Philippines**

On 17 February 2006, a major mudslide triggered by heavy rains buried a whole village in the Philippine province of Southern Leyte. As of 28 February, the Philippine National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) reported 139 bodies recovered 980 people missing.

ADRC has constantly been receiving latest information on the mudslide from Ms. Maria Matilde Limpahan Go, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), a former Visiting Researcher of ADRC. The NDCC updates are available through the Latest Disaster Information of ADRC website at <http://www.adrc.or.jp> (GLIDE: MS-2006-000026-PHL).

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

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