



ADRC

Highlights

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➤ ADRC Cooperative Project 2005: International Urban Search and Rescue Training Course

The Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) has been providing opportunities for overseas experts to learn tactics and techniques used in urban search and rescue situations since 2000. With the help of SCDF, ADRC has been inviting participants from ADRC member countries to join the course since 2001. This year's course was held from 21 February to 3 March 2006. ADRC supported experts from Republic of Korea, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and Russia to participate in the course.

The training course has been conducted in training facilities of the Civil Defence Academy established in 1999, which owns one of top facilities and trainers in Asia. The training course included not only lectures to learn the concepts and principles

for managing and handling rescue operations in urban search and rescue situation, but also physical exercises to acquire the special skills and techniques, such as shoring methods, debris tunneling, search procedures with breathing apparatus, and collapsed building rescue. The participants highly evaluated the experience to acquire actual techniques of search and rescue which would be of great help for their future disaster management work.



The frequent occurrence of disasters, including the Indian Ocean Tsunami and the South Asia Earthquake underscored the need for further developing the capability of search and rescue experts. ADRC would like to continue to serve the needs of member countries in this field.

For more information, please contact Ms. Yoshida (yoshida@adrc.or.jp).

➤ ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report

□ Mr. G. M. Janaka K. Gunawardena from Sri Lanka

26 December 2004 was a black marked day in the Sri Lankan history. The massive tsunami caused unprecedented damages to the lives, livelihoods and properties of people living in the coast of Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka is a small island situated only 36 km below the Indian subcontinent. It is a tropical climatic country and is prone to floods, landslides, droughts and cyclones. Compared to neighboring countries, intensity of

these disasters is generally moderate. This had led to the lack of public awareness of disaster risk, until the tsunami hit the country.

As Assistant Director to the National Disaster Management Centre of Sri Lanka, I believe that we could have minimized damage by about 50 % if there was great awareness among the general public and the officials.

The tsunami tragedy drove the government of Sri Lanka to take steps to strengthen its disaster management system. On 12 December 2005, the President decided to form two new ministries for disaster management, which are the Ministry of Disaster Management and the Ministry of Disaster Relief Services. On 13 May 2005, the parliament of Sri Lanka approved the Disaster Management Act No. 13 to strengthen the disaster management policies.

Considering the above, the Visiting Researcher Program of ADRC has been a great opportunity for me and my country to learn disaster countermeasures through various activities like participating in various conferences, seminars and programs, and visiting disaster affected areas and various organizations.

I would like to serve my country with disaster management skills and knowledge which I have acquired through this visiting researcher program.



➤ The 3rd Public Symposium on Post Disaster Recovery will be held on 30 May 2006

On the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the establishment of the International Recovery Platform (IRP), a public symposium titled "Progress towards Hyogo Framework for Action" will be held in Kobe at 13:30-16:30 on 30 May 2006, in cooperation with Cabinet Office, Hyogo Prefectural Government, UNDP, UN/ISDR, UN/OCHA Kobe and ADRC.

The symposium will introduce the IRP activities carried out since its establishment and discuss the orientation of IRP towards the implementation of HFA.

Japanese-English translation will be available. Admission is free of charge. However, no financial assistance for the participation is provided.

For registration, please email your name, organization, job title and tel/ fax number to irp-event@recoveryplatform.org by 24 May 2006.

For more information, please visit the IRP's website (http://www.recoveryplatform.org/pdf/3rd_symposium.pdf).

If you have comments or questions regarding this newsletter, please contact the ADRC.

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