



ADRC Highlights

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➤ Tsunami Disaster Education Project in Thailand

It has been widely recognized that primary school education is one of the key elements in long term disaster risk reduction strategies. School children can play an important role in real life situations if disaster risk reduction is integrated into part of school curriculum.

ADRC held three-day workshop in Phuket and Phang Nga provinces in Thailand as part of the Tsunami Disaster Education Project supported by UNESCO/IOC and UN/ISDR. Purposes of the workshop were to improve draft of teaching materials by using them in real classes, and to introduce evacuation drills at schools in Thailand. Two-hour pilot classes were given to 20 pupils of 4th grade, and to 36 pupils of 5th and 6th grades at two pilot schools. Emergency tsunami evacuation drills were also carried out for the whole students without notice.



Lastly, a one-day seminar was held in Phuket to introduce tsunami teaching materials and tsunami evacuation drills to approx. 130 educators. Having learned the basic knowledge about earthquake and tsunami from experts of UNESCO/IOC and Kyoto University, they received explanations on the materials from an officer of Ministry of Education in Thailand, and carried out exercises on how to develop teaching plan facilitated by an expert from the Board of Education in Hyogo Prefecture. At the end of the workshop, various questions and opinions were raised by the participants, including the implementation methods of evacuation drills in more complex situations and revised materials for other grade students. ADRC would like to analyze and evaluate the project based on the feedbacks provided by the participants.

For more information, please contact Mr. Teranishi (teranishi@adrc.or.jp), Senior Researcher of ADRC.

➤ Dr. Pujiono Taking Leadership of UN/OCHA Kobe

Dr. Puji Pujiono has been the new head of the UN/OCHA Kobe and the Asia Regional Disaster Response Advisor since January 2006.

Prior to the appointment in UN/OCHA, he worked in different humanitarian emergencies for almost a decade until he served as UNHCR Community Services Officer in West Timor Operation in late 90's. Subsequently, he was the Disaster Expert of ASEAN in which position he built the disaster management portfolio of ASEAN and its ten Member Countries. For his services, the Philippines gov't awarded him the Gawad Kalasag, citing for excellence in disaster risk management and humanitarian assistance.

With Dr. Pujiono at the helm, UN/OCHA Kobe has



been providing the leadership in the coordination of disaster responses in the region. As part of Asia Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok, UN/OCHA Kobe supports UN country teams and national gov'ts of East Asia, Southeast Asia and Timor Leste. It also serves as focal point for the HFA, particularly on priority action 5: Preparedness for Effective Response.

In addition, UN/OCHA maintains the ReliefWeb hub complementing NY and Geneva operations to provide the global facility for disaster monitoring, knowledge depository and exchange as well as emergency response operations.

"ADRC is critical for the internal synergy amongst its members, with other regional entities and with int'l response systems including UN/OCHA. And with the continuing support from Japanese and Hyogo prefectural gov'ts, there are a lot of opportunities for UN/OCHA Kobe to accomplish together with ADRC," he said.

During his initial months, Dr. Pujiono has led the UN team responding to Leyte landslide, and in these weeks, extending surge capacity for Indonesia in dealing with the threat of the Merapi volcanic eruption. At home base in Kobe, he has been promoting the convergence of UN/OCHA Kobe with ADRC, the Int'l Recovery Platform (IRP) and other Kobe-based entities.

➤ IRP Secretariat Joined Landslide Investigation Team in the Southern Leyte

Mr. Masahiko Murata, Recovery Expert of IRP Secretariat, visited the Philippines to contribute to the early-stage recovery from the massive landslide occurred in Guinsaunon, Southern Leyte, Philippines (GLIDE: MS-2006-000026-PHL). He joined the Japan-Philippine Joint Investigation Team led by Prof. Sasa, Kyoto University.

Aside from investigating the mechanism of the slide and sampling of soils, Mr. Murata discussed with the gov't officials in charge of disaster management regarding recovery policy and their strategy for nationwide mid-long term disaster risk reduction. He also provided useful information on HFA-based recovery and recovery experiences learned from landslides and earthquakes in Japan.

The team proved that such a large scale landslide was triggered by not only continuous rainfall but also a small earthquake. The method of the recovery chosen is relocation from Guinsaunon village to Magbagakay village near St. Bernard city for about 300 families.

The Gov't of the Philippines has started to develop national multi-hazard mapping and mid-long term community-involved disaster risk reduction strategies. IRP Secretariat, together with UN agencies and donor countries, is keen to support these activities using its network.

For more information, please contact Mr. Murata (murata@recoveryplatform.org).



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

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