



ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 250
January
2014

TOPICS

Natural Disaster Report in the Philippines

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and International Recovery Platform (IRP) Dispatched Survey Team to the Typhoon-affected areas in the Philippines

Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

ADRC DRR Policy Peer Review FY2013

● Natural Disaster Report in the Philippines

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and International Recovery Platform (IRP) Secretariat Dispatched Survey Team to the Typhoon-affected areas in the Philippines

In December 2013, a team of researchers and experts from ADRC/IRP visited some areas in the provinces of Leyte and Samar that were impacted by typhoon Haiyan (local name Yolanda) in the Philippines. The objective was to draw information on preparedness, response, and plans for recovery in order to provide greater understanding of the disaster, including what gaps and challenges need to be addressed.

The team found that essential preparations were made in anticipation of the super typhoon, such that preemptive evacuations to schools, churches, stadiums, and public buildings were made. Additionally, relief goods and services were ready in most command centers. However, the preparations did not match the magnitude of the unexpected super typhoon which caused massive storm surge that destroyed the evacuation and command centers, specifically those located near the coast. Among of the immediate impacts were high casualties, relief goods washed away, and command centers became dysfunctional. Subsequently, the response effort had no choice but to be delayed. As island provinces, there were challenges in the operational capacities of airports and seaports as well as communication/coordination because most infrastructures were damaged. In fact, most relief goods and services were stranded in some islands before reaching the impacted areas.



[Tacloban Airport]



[Covered Court, Baras, Palo, Leyte]



[Livelihoods of fishermen were affected]



[Province of Leyte Recovery Team]

Asian Disaster Reduction Center

Higashikan 5F, 1-5-2
Wakinohamakaigan-dori,
Chuo-ku, Kobe
651-0073 Japan

Tel: 078-262-5540
Fax: 078-262-5546
editor@adrc.asia
http://www.adrc.asia

© ADRC 2014

Continued

In terms of recovery, the local governments and communities acknowledged that greater challenges in housing, livelihoods, and infrastructure are expected. Since most areas were flattened, people immediately need shelter. Communities also need alternative livelihoods because assets from original activities such as coconut harvesting, farming, and fishing were gone. Furthermore, the local market, transportation, energy, and communication infrastructure were also urgently needed. The findings from the visit suggest that in terms of preparedness, public awareness on storm surge needs to be strengthened, location of evacuation and command centers need to be reviewed, and policies and activities on preparedness (e.g. early warning systems) need to be reassessed. In terms of response, the capacities of local governments and communities to provide immediate relief goods/services need to be enhanced in anticipation of the delays from external agencies due to logistical challenges. In terms of recovery, it is crucial that communities are actively engaged in planning and implementing the programs and projects.

In view of these suggestions, IRP/ADRC plans to organize a workshop in the Province of Cebu in February 2014 to be participated by local government officials and key stakeholders to re-assess the needs for drills and proper information dissemination, re-evaluate early warning systems, and provide technical assistance for recovery planning at the provincial/city/municipality levels. The output of the workshop will be shared with ADRC member countries on occasion of “ACDR 2014” to be held at Tokyo in March 2014.

For more information, please contact Kouchi (sk-kouchi@adra.asia) or Ikeda (mi-ikeda@adrc.asia).



[Tacloban City Stadium]



[Tacloban City Operations Center]

● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

ADRC DRR Policy Peer Review FY2013

In 2009, ADRC initiated a pilot project entitled DRR Policy Peer Review with the aim of developing the DRR capacity of ADRC member countries through the sharing of information and the strengthening of relationships among member countries. One of the target countries selected for this year, the fifth year of the project, was the Maldives. After the Maldives submitted its country report, a reviewer team comprised of Dr. Anawat Suppasri (Associate Professor, International Research Institute of Disaster Science, Tohoku University, Japan), Ms. Nwet Yin Aye (Deputy Director, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar) and Mr. Junji Moriwaki (ADRC Researcher) visited that country to conduct interviews. The theme of this review was “Developing a National Framework on Managing Internally Displaced Populations (IDPs) During Emergencies.”

The team visited relevant organizations involved in DRR activities in the Maldives to examine the efforts they have made toward DRR development. The team then conducted inspections and interviews in areas affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami, and prepared a draft report of the survey results with all its findings and recommendations (such as the development of DRR at the community level through efforts to build capacity and develop legislation). A workshop was also held in Male to obtain



Continued

opinions and comments to be used in finalizing the report, as well as to introduce good practices for reducing tsunami risk and managing IDPs demonstrated in Japan (Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami) and Myanmar (Cyclone Nargis). This proved to be a very good opportunity for participants to share opinions with one another.

This project aims to promote mutual learning among all ADRC member countries, rather than one-way learning. After survey missions are complete, reviewer teams compile survey reports and send them to the target country, after which they are shared with all ADRC member countries to enhance cross-fertilization.

ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all of those who have made such important contributions to this project.

For Inquiries & Subscription Information

For more information or details regarding email subscriptions to this newsletter, please email editor@adrc.asia.