



ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 293
August
2017

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JICA Training Course: Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction for Central Asia and the Caucasus 2017

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JICA Training Course: Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction for Central Asia and the Caucasus 2017

From 19 June to 29 July 2017, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted a training course for disaster management officials from Central Asia and the Caucasus with cooperation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kansai International Center. The course was conducted in Russian and attended by a total of eight central and local government officials representing four countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan in Central Asia, and Armenia in the Caucasus.



Lecture at the Snow and Ice Research Center

The training was designed to convey basic knowledge and experiences related to natural disaster management, and to encourage the disaster management activities that have been conducted in these countries. Central Asia and the Caucasus frequently experience disasters such as floods, droughts, landslides, and earthquakes, some of which extend across several countries. Also, heavy snowfall in the winter can lead to flooding when mountain glaciers thaw in the warmer seasons. Thus, these regions have common concerns in terms of disaster risk management. During the training, participants were asked to identify a major problem in their own countries and to formulate an action plan for addressing it. They attended lectures and visited central and municipal government agencies, research institutes, a meteorological organization, a broadcasting company, a disaster management base, private companies, and an NPO to comprehensively enhance their understanding of Japan's disaster management system.

Participants were able to learn about disaster management and information sharing in heavy snowfall events at the Snow and Ice Research Center of the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED), located in Yamagata Prefecture. Heavy snows are one of the biggest challenges for participants, and this was good opportunity to consider suitable disaster management approaches to be taken in each country. They also participated in “Town Watching and Community-based Hazard Mapping” activities, which provide a good model of community-based disaster risk management. In addition, participants visited a lot of disaster management agencies and organizations in Tokyo, Tsukuba, Niigata, and Hyogo Prefecture.

It is hoped that the participants will make good use of the knowledge, technologies, and methods they learned from this training course to implement various projects and help strengthen the disaster management systems in their home countries. This course also allowed participants to reinforce their relationships with one another, and is expected to strengthen disaster management information networks in the region. ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all the organizations that contributed to the success of this course.