2-3. Collection of Information

2-3-1. Methodology

With the consent of the 25 countries in the Asian region, the ADRC has been collecting and organizing information on the situation of natural disasters in each member country as well as information, knowledge and experience related to the systems, plans, and specific measures for disaster reduction, in order to facilitate information sharing among member countries. The ADRC has been committed to establishing the foundation for such an information network in order to promote the establishment of a national disaster reduction framework in each member country, and multinational cooperation for disaster reduction in Asia.

In addition, the ADRC has collected information from related materials available, the disaster reduction officers of various countries and other related organizations, and constructed an up-to-date database on natural disasters and disaster reduction specialist resources, to help disseminate the collected information. Furthermore, through collaboration with visiting researchers from member countries, the Asian Unit of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), and the OCHA ReliefWeb Office in Kobe, the ADRC has also obtained quick access to detailed and specific information, which is incorporated in information that the ADRC disseminates.

The ADRC will continue collecting and releasing detailed information on the following items through the Internet and other media:

- Disaster management systems (legal frameworks, organizations, basic plans, and disaster management manuals, etc.)
- Actual cases of disaster countermeasures (taken by member countries in the past)
- Information on natural disasters (descriptions of natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, cyclones, etc., and resulting impact)
- Human resources information (disaster reduction administrators, academic experts, international organizations, private companies, NGO members, etc.)

2-3-2. Collection of Information from Member Countries

In 2005, as in the previous year, the ADRC collected disaster reduction-related information on member countries through the following methods:

(1)   Requests to member countries for information

The ADRC has made efforts to gain the understanding of each member country on the purposes of the ADRC and the need for multinational disaster reduction cooperation. Upon the request from the ADRC, member countries have been providing natural disaster information, as well as information on actual disaster management measures and disaster reduction systems.

(2)   Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2006

At the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR 2006) held on March 15-17, 2006, member countries, advisor countries, UN agencies and NGOs provided natural disaster information including country reports, and other materials on actual cases of disaster management and disaster reduction systems. They will also present their requests concerning the activities of the ADRC.

ACDR 2006 attracted attendance of many disaster-related international organizations, because it was one of following up meeting of UNWCDR (World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Jan. 18-22, 2005, Kobe), all participants were interested in the realization of HFA (Hyogo Framework for Action). Thus, ACDR 2006 provided a meaningful opportunity for reconfirming the need of building an international cooperation system for more diversified collaboration and more efficient disaster information sharing.

(3)　Use of WWW (World Wide Web)

1) Disaster reduction information of member countries

As it did in the previous year, the ADRC is collecting information on the disaster reduction systems of member countries from WWW sites, in addition to related information provided by administrators in charge at international organizations and in respective countries.

In the future, it will be important to keep a close eye on disaster reduction information provided by member countries, and provide technical support and other forms of assistance to member countries in order to construct disaster information databases for an information network that facilitates active involvement of member countries in information dissemination.

2) Disaster reduction information provided by academic research institutions and international organizations

There are other international organizations and research institutions engaged in collecting and providing disaster reduction information from various perspectives. The Internet has expanded over recent years, gradually providing an infrastructure for access to such information.

However, such information circulates via various and independent channels. As a result, it is not always easy to access the exact information needed. To resolve this problem and promote disaster-related information sharing, the ADRC has proposed the use of common disaster IDs. The disaster database (EM-DAT) run by the CRED of Louvain Catholic University in Belgium provides access to statistical data of disasters all over the world via the Internet. While the EM-DAT serves as a statistical database, the ReliefWeb, OCHA provides information on natural disasters and reliable information on disaster countermeasures and management via its "ReliefWeb" site on the Internet in order to support humanitarian activities during disasters. Use of common IDs for the disasters reduction information will facilitate easy access to information of both the EM-DAT and the ReliefWeb. The ADRC intends to further promote the GLIDE (GLobal unique disaster IDEntifier number) project launched in 2001 in order to facilitate effective integration of information disseminated by many disaster management-related organizations on the same disasters. The ADRC developed GLIDEnumber.net (http://glidenumber.net/) not only as a promotion site but also for registration of new disasters and distribution of new GLIDE numbers since May 2004.