

## 3-2. Database on Disaster Risk Reduction

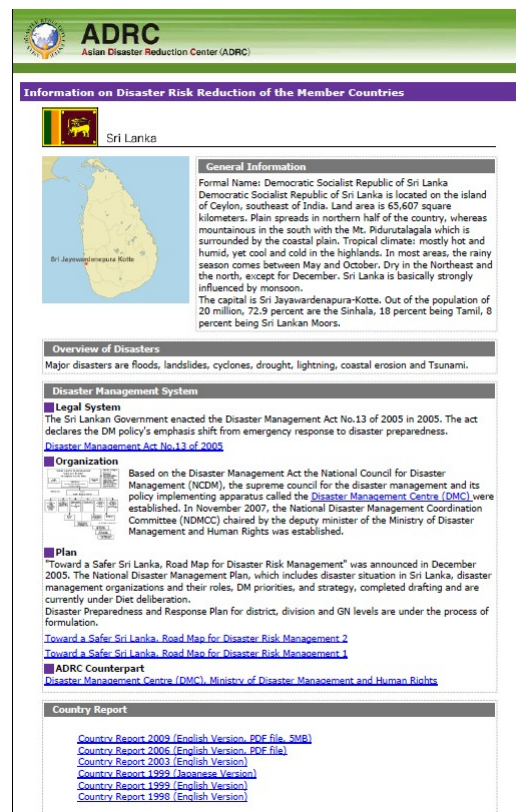
The ADRC has been disseminating many different types of information related to disaster risk reduction on its website (<http://www.adrc.asia>) aiming at ensuring an appropriate disaster response, mitigation, and preparedness activities.

### 3-2-1. Information on Disaster Management Systems in Member and Advisor Countries

The ADRC has been providing up-to-date information on disaster management systems in the member and advisor countries as useful references for planning and implementing disaster risk management activities in Asia and the world.

The webpage of “Information on Disaster Risk Reduction of Member Countries” outlines general information including a brief description of climate and geographical conditions, overview of disasters, and disaster management system including legal system, organizations for dealing with disaster risk management, basic plans for disaster risk mitigation and reduction in each country.

Further, the page provides country reports compiled by the member countries for more detailed information mentioned above. The reports also include progress of the implementation of the priority actions of Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015. In 2009, the reports of Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand have been updated.



**ADRC**  
Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)

**Information on Disaster Risk Reduction of the Member Countries**

**Sri Lanka**

**General Information**  
Formal Name: Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is located on the island of Ceylon, southeast of India. Land area is 65,607 square kilometers. Plain spreads in northern half of the country, whereas mountainous in the south with the Mt. Pidurutalagala which is surrounded by the coastal plain. Tropical climate: mostly hot and humid, yet cool and cold in the highlands. In most areas, the rainy season comes between May and October; Dry in the Northeast and the north, except for December. Sri Lanka is basically strongly influenced by monsoon.  
The capital is Sri Jayawardenapura-Kotte. Out of the population of 20 million, 72.9 percent are the Sinhala, 18 percent being Tamil, 8 percent being Sri Lankan Moors.

**Overview of Disasters**  
Major disasters are floods, landslides, cyclones, drought, lightning, coastal erosion and Tsunami.

**Disaster Management System**

**Legal System**  
The Sri Lankan Government enacted the Disaster Management Act No.13 of 2005 in 2005. The act declares the DM policy's emphasis shift from emergency response to disaster preparedness.  
[Disaster Management Act No.13 of 2005](#)

**Organization**  
Based on the Disaster Management Act the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM), the supreme council for the disaster management and its policy implementing apparatus called the [Disaster Management Centre \(DMC\)](#) were established. In November, 2007, the National Disaster Management Coordination Committee (NDMCC) chaired by the deputy minister of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights was established.

**Plan**  
"Toward a Safer Sri Lanka, Road Map for Disaster Risk Management" was announced in December 2005. The National Disaster Management Plan, which includes disaster situation in Sri Lanka, disaster management organizations and their roles, DM priorities, and strategy, completed drafting and are currently under Diet deliberation.  
Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan for district, division and GN levels are under the process of formulation.  
[Toward a Safer Sri Lanka, Road Map for Disaster Risk Management 2](#)  
[Toward a Safer Sri Lanka, Road Map for Disaster Risk Management 1](#)

**ADRC Counterpart**  
[Disaster Management Centre \(DMC\), Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights](#)

**Country Report**

[Country Report 2002 \(English Version, PDF file, 5MB\)](#)  
[Country Report 2006 \(English Version, PDF file\)](#)  
[Country Report 2003 \(English Version\)](#)  
[Country Report 1993 \(Japanese Version\)](#)  
[Country Report 1992 \(English Version\)](#)  
[Country Report 1998 \(English Version\)](#)

Fig. 3-2-1 Country Profiles on DRR  
<http://www.adrc.asia/disaster/index.html>

### 3-2-2. Total Disaster Risk Management, Good Practices 2009

Since its inception in 1998, the ADRC has been pursuing safety and security for those living in Asia through various means, including information sharing, human resource development, and community capacity-building. Further along this line, the ADRC has been collaborating with the UN and other international organizations/disaster management institutions in each country toward implementing the HFA.

“Total Disaster Risk Management: Good Practices” has been published annually since January 2005, when the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) was held in Kobe, Japan. It is intended as a user-friendly publication and aims to further promote disaster risk reduction activities by demonstrating positive examples collected from different countries.

The good practices in disaster risk management activities by governments, local governments, universities, international organizations, NGOs and the general public are distributed in ADRC website.



Japanese version



English version

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### **3-2-3. Data Book on Asian Natural Disasters**

Every year natural hazards hit the Asian region, causing tremendous loss of life and livelihood, and jeopardizing potential sustainable development. For example, in 2008, two historic disasters, Cyclone Nargis and Sichuan Earthquake brought about devastating impacts on Myanmar and China. A total of 226,000 people were killed by the disasters alone, accounting for 95 percent of the world's killed people in the year, while include other disasters that occurred in Asia, 97 percent of killed people in the year were from Asia. Similar trend is found in the number of the affected people and the amount of damage of the year, to show the vulnerability to disasters in the region.

As part of its information sharing activities, ADRC has been compiling a data book annually since 2002, which includes the overview of the disaster occurrences and impacts of the world and Asia, based on the data accumulated from EM-DAT, along with numerous other statistics and analyses. Now Data Book 2007 is available online at ADRC's website.

### **3-2-4. Current Status of "GLIDE"**

GLIDE is the acronym for the GLobal unique disaster IDentifier system, in which commonly formatted but unique numbers are assigned to disasters all over the world. The GLIDE system was first proposed by ADRC and has been adopted and used by more than 20 international organizations and research institutes.

ADRC has its own criteria for how new GLIDE numbers are generated. In Japan, a new GLIDE number will be generated if a disaster occurs in which either five or more people are killed or 100 or more people are injured. In other countries, a new GLIDE number will be generated if a disaster occurs in which either 10 or more people are killed or 100 or more people are injured.

#### **3-2-4-1. Disaster Information Sharing Using GLIDE Numbers**

There are many organizations around the world that design and develop their own disaster databases that are freely accessible online. When a disaster occurs, information is distributed over the Internet not only by organizations in the affected countries but also by organizations and the mass media in other countries. Whenever a disaster occurs in any part of the world, ADRC collects information from websites of relevant organizations and worldwide news agencies, or by sending e-mails to contact persons in the affected area. Over the course of its experience, ADRC has come up against several problems in collecting disaster information using these conventional methods, including the following.

- (1) Considerable manpower is needed to search the Internet for websites of relevant individual organizations every time a disaster occurs.
- (2) There is no standardized naming protocol for disasters. As many different names are given to a certain single disaster by various organizations, even search engines such as Google or Yahoo sometimes return no results.
- (3) Website links may be lost when the structure of particular organization's database or website is modified.

The GLIDE system offers a solution to these problems. It will significantly improve the efficiency with which information on historical and ongoing disasters can be retrieved from databases and websites.

At the Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN) Conference held in Canberra, Australia in March 2001, ADRC proposed the development of a standardized coding system for managing information on disasters around the world. This proposal was accepted for implementation as a pilot project by the GDIN. In 2004, glidnumber.net was jointly developed by the ADRC and OCHA ReliefWeb, with technical assistance provided by LaRED. It is designed to issue new GLIDE numbers to disasters immediately after they occur. Moreover, ADRC, the CRED, IRI/Columbia University, the USAID/OFDA, the WMO, IFRC, UNDP, and ISDR Secretariat have agreed to use the GLIDE number format as the standard for assigning disaster identification numbers.

The GLIDE number format was revised in 2004 as follows:

<p>AA-BBBB-CCCCC-DDD-EEE</p> <p>AA: Disaster classification    →→→→→→→→</p> <p>BBBB: Year of occurrence (4-digit numeric figure)</p> <p>CCCCC: Serial number by year</p> <p>DDD: Country code (ISO code. e.g., JPN for Japan)</p> <p>EEE: Region code (e.g., 013 for Tokyo)</p>	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Drought</td><td>DR</td></tr> <tr><td>Heat Wave</td><td>HW</td></tr> <tr><td>Cold Wave</td><td>CW</td></tr> <tr><td>Tropical Cyclone</td><td>TC</td></tr> <tr><td>Extratropical Cyclone</td><td>EC</td></tr> <tr><td>Tornado</td><td>TO</td></tr> <tr><td>Violent Wind</td><td>VW</td></tr> <tr><td>Severe Local Storm</td><td>ST</td></tr> <tr><td>Flood</td><td>FL</td></tr> <tr><td>Flash Flood</td><td>FF</td></tr> <tr><td>Land Slide</td><td>LS</td></tr> <tr><td>Snow Avalanche</td><td>AV</td></tr> <tr><td>Mud Slide</td><td>MS</td></tr> <tr><td>Volcano</td><td>VO</td></tr> <tr><td>Earthquake</td><td>EQ</td></tr> <tr><td>Fire</td><td>FR</td></tr> <tr><td>Tsunami</td><td>TS</td></tr> <tr><td>Storm Surge</td><td>SS</td></tr> <tr><td>Epidemic</td><td>EP</td></tr> <tr><td>Insect Infestation</td><td>IN</td></tr> <tr><td>Wild Fire</td><td>WF</td></tr> <tr><td>Others</td><td>OT</td></tr> <tr><td>Complex Emergency</td><td>CE</td></tr> <tr><td>Technological</td><td>AC</td></tr> </table>	Drought	DR	Heat Wave	HW	Cold Wave	CW	Tropical Cyclone	TC	Extratropical Cyclone	EC	Tornado	TO	Violent Wind	VW	Severe Local Storm	ST	Flood	FL	Flash Flood	FF	Land Slide	LS	Snow Avalanche	AV	Mud Slide	MS	Volcano	VO	Earthquake	EQ	Fire	FR	Tsunami	TS	Storm Surge	SS	Epidemic	EP	Insect Infestation	IN	Wild Fire	WF	Others	OT	Complex Emergency	CE	Technological	AC
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Fig 3-2-4-1 Structure of GLIDE

The local code at the end can be added for the convenience of user countries in organizing their national databases. This format is still in use among GLIDE-issuing organizations.

Databases that incorporate GLIDE numbers will have the following advantages:

- (1) A parameterized search function allows user organizations to easily connect pieces of disaster information archived by various organizations.
- (2) A search engine, developed to focus on particularly important information for user organizations, allows a one-stop search and display of all the necessary data, eliminating the need to conduct additional searches for data independently archived by individual organizations.

### 3. Collection and Distribution of Disaster Information

The current status of GLIDE use by partner organizations is described in the table below.

	Name of organization	Status of GLIDE utilization
GLIDE number issuance & utilization on disaster website/database	Asia Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)	Uses GLIDE numbers to report latest disasters, in conjunction with ReliefWeb.
	OCHA ReliefWeb (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)	Issues GLIDE numbers and creates linkages using GLIDE numbers.
	LaRED	A disaster database in Latin America. Issues GLIDE numbers to its own database records.
	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Issues GLIDE numbers when transmitting disaster information for Red Cross activities.
	JRC/GDACs (EU)	Disaster information website in the EU
	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA)	GLIDE numbers are utilized in the disaster databases of Caribbean countries.
	OCD, NDCC (Philippines)	Issues GLIDE numbers to records on disasters over the past 35 years in a joint project with ADRC and publishes them online.
GLIDE number utilization on disaster website/database	UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Uses GLIDE numbers to link existing disaster records to the FAO's Mapping System of agricultural disasters.
	Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)	Scheduled to provide satellite information linked to the latest disaster information of ADRC.
	Dartmouth Flood Observatory (Dartmouth University, USA)	Uses GLIDE numbers to floods recorded worldwide.
	UNOSAT	Utilizes GLIDE numbers in the provision of satellite images.
	Benfield (UK)	Research agency of a reinsurance company in UK that utilizes GLIDE numbers on its disaster website (inTERRAgate).
	SHELUDUS (South Carolina University, US)	Uses GLIDE numbers to disaster data in US. GLIDE can be used as a search term.
	PDC (Pacific Disaster Center)	Uses GLIDE numbers to disasters on its website.
GLIDE-supporting international organizations	National Research Institute of Earth Science & Disaster Prevention (NIED)	Uses GLIDE numbers to disasters in its database.
	United Nations Development Programs (UNDP), International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), CRED, WMO	GLIDE propagation and promotion are supported by these UN organizations.

Fig 3-2-4-2 Current Glide Partnerships