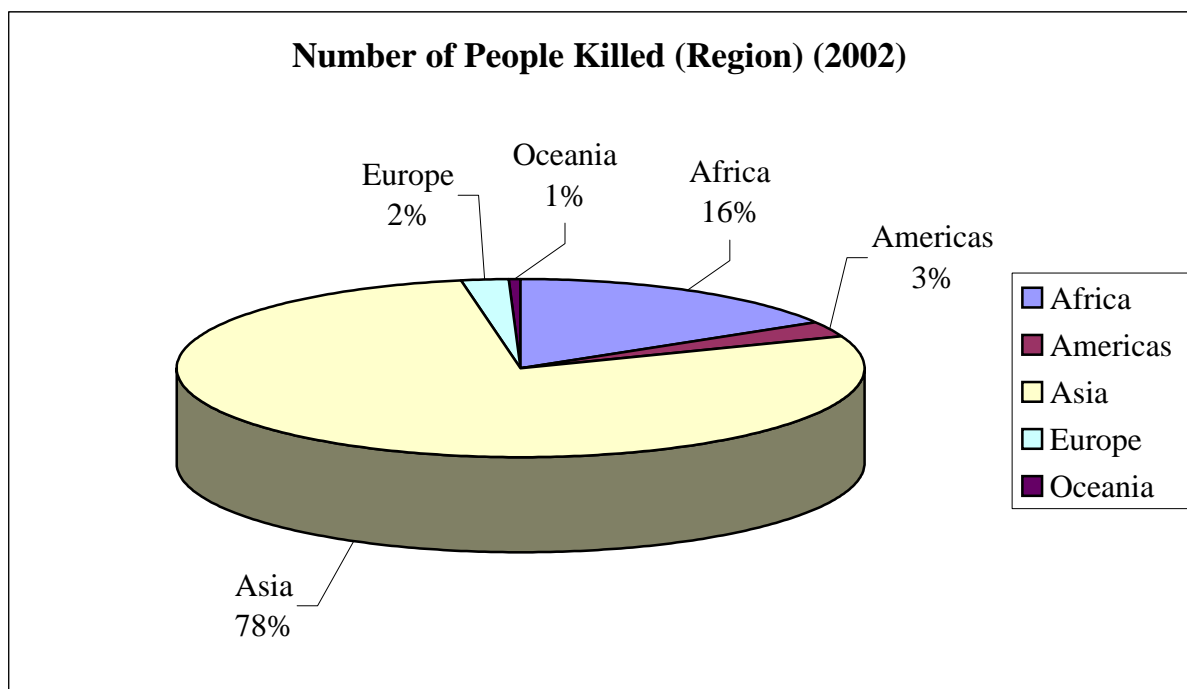


1.2 Vulnerability of Asia:

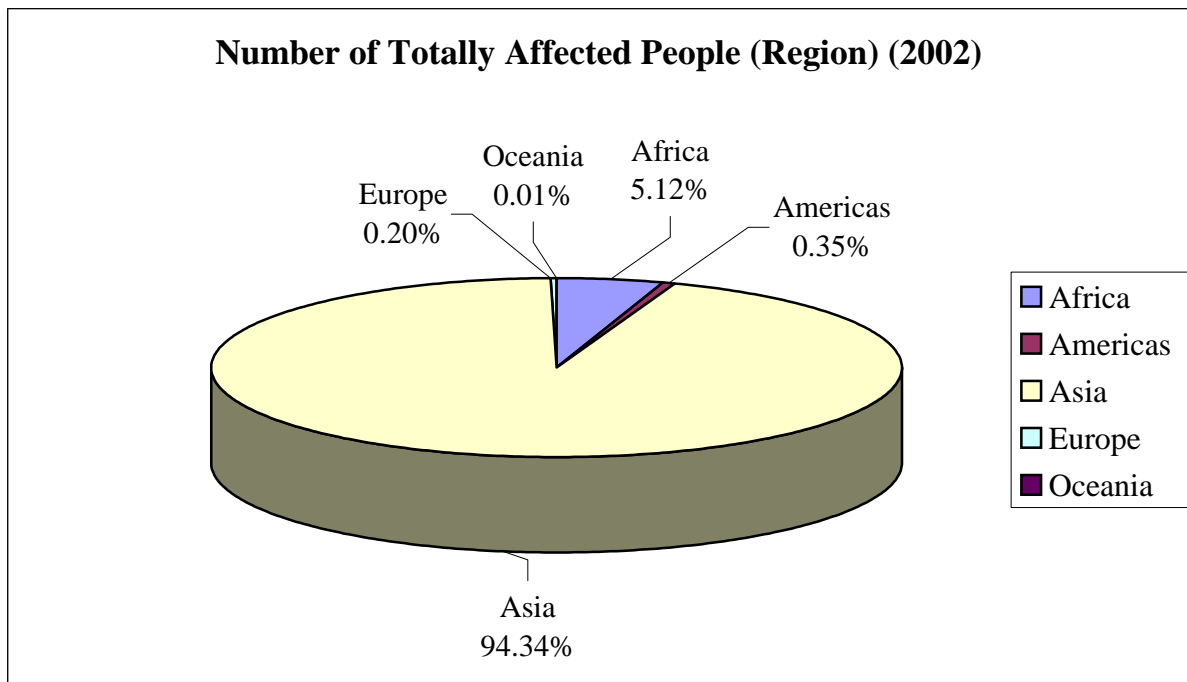
As we look at the following figures in relation to the Asian region, it is quite evident that the region is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters. The majority of the human loss and suffering is reported from this region in the year 2002, as in the previous years. Specifically, nearly 94% of the totally affected people and 78% of the human loss are reported from Asia. Further, in 2002, the majority of the economic loss caused by disasters is reported from Europe, followed by Asia. This is due to the Flood of Europe in 2002.

Figure 3:



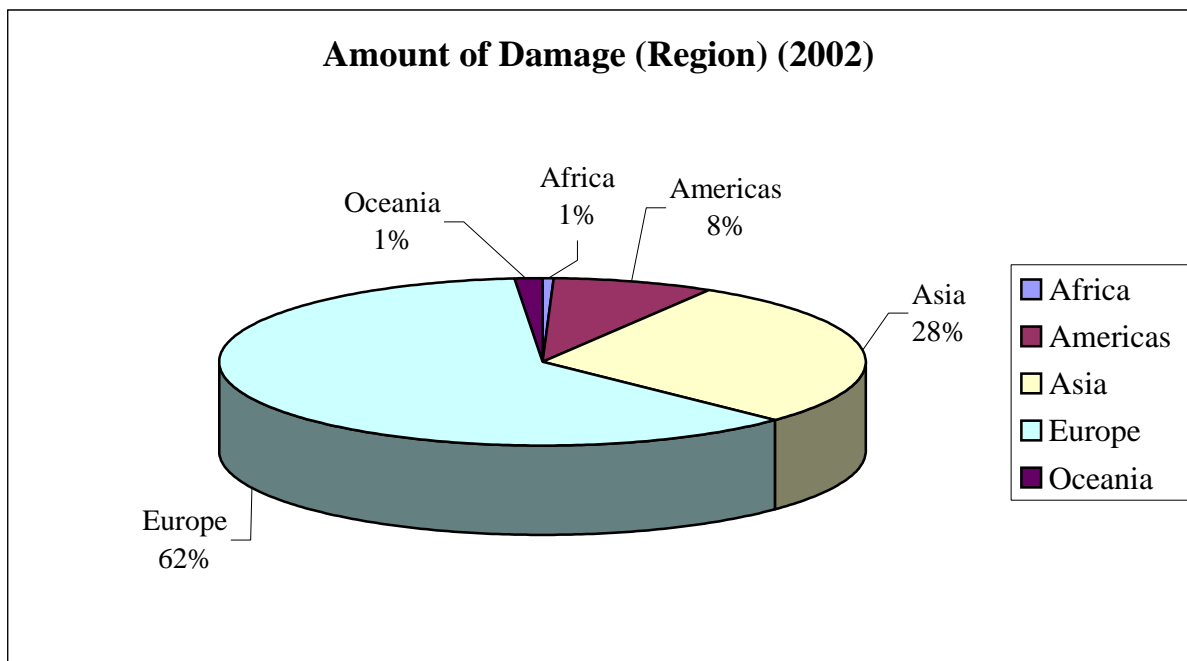
Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002

Figure 4:



Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002

Figure 5:



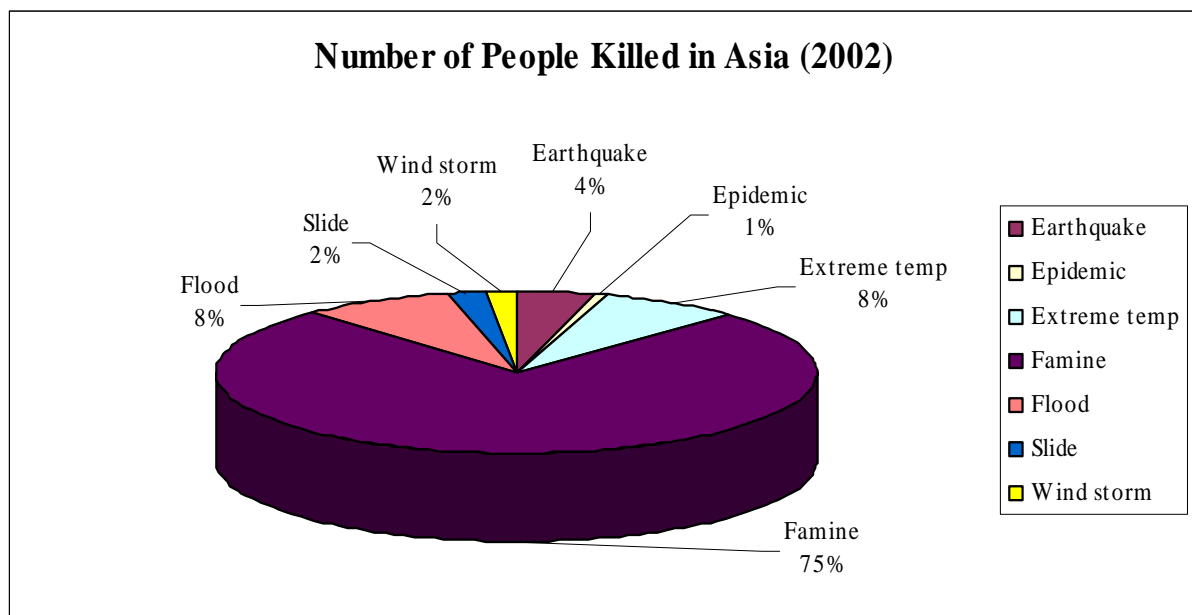
Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002

According to the data on disaster type and impact on society and the economy, in 2002, the Asian region was highly affected by hydro meteorological disasters like

droughts, floods, and windstorms. However, the majority of the people who were killed in Asia were killed by famine in Asia (Figure 6) due to the famine disaster (food shortage) of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). Further, it can be seen from past analytical studies of disasters and the ADRC's 20th Century Asian Natural Disasters Data Book that socio-economic and cultural dimensions specific to the Asian region are also two of the reasons for the great number of affected people, though the real economic damage is comparatively small. The following chapters help us to understand regional differences in the characteristics of disaster in relation to disaster types. Nevertheless, the great amount of human suffering in this region substantially hinders development activities.

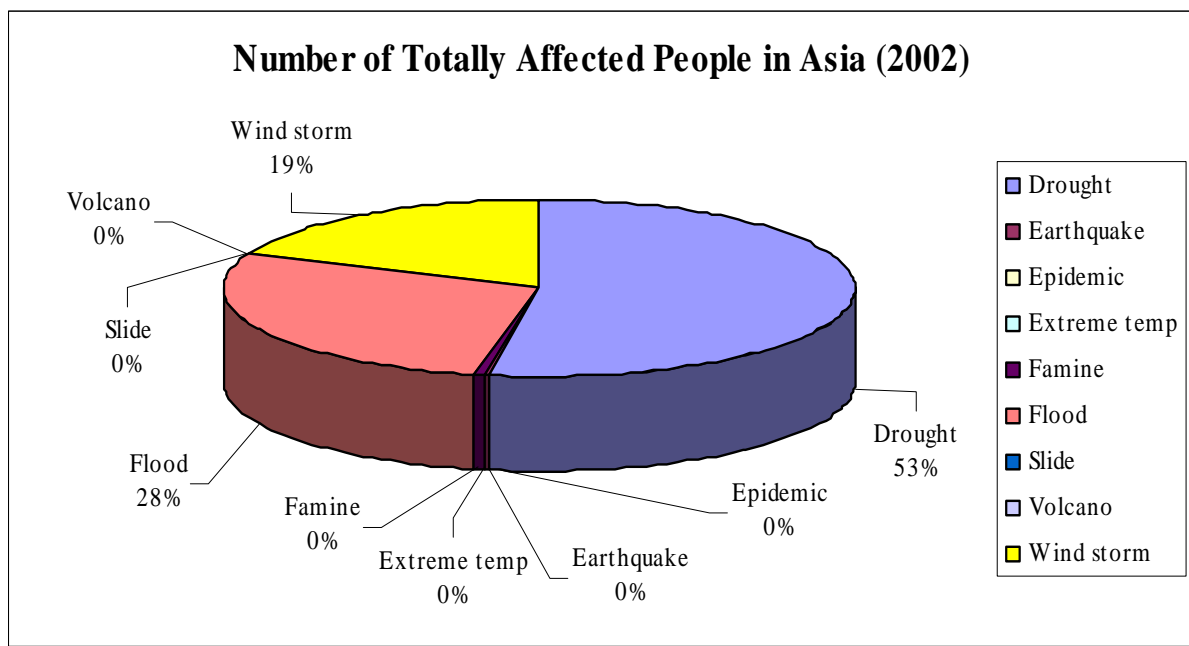
Following figures illustrate this trend clearly.

Figure 6:



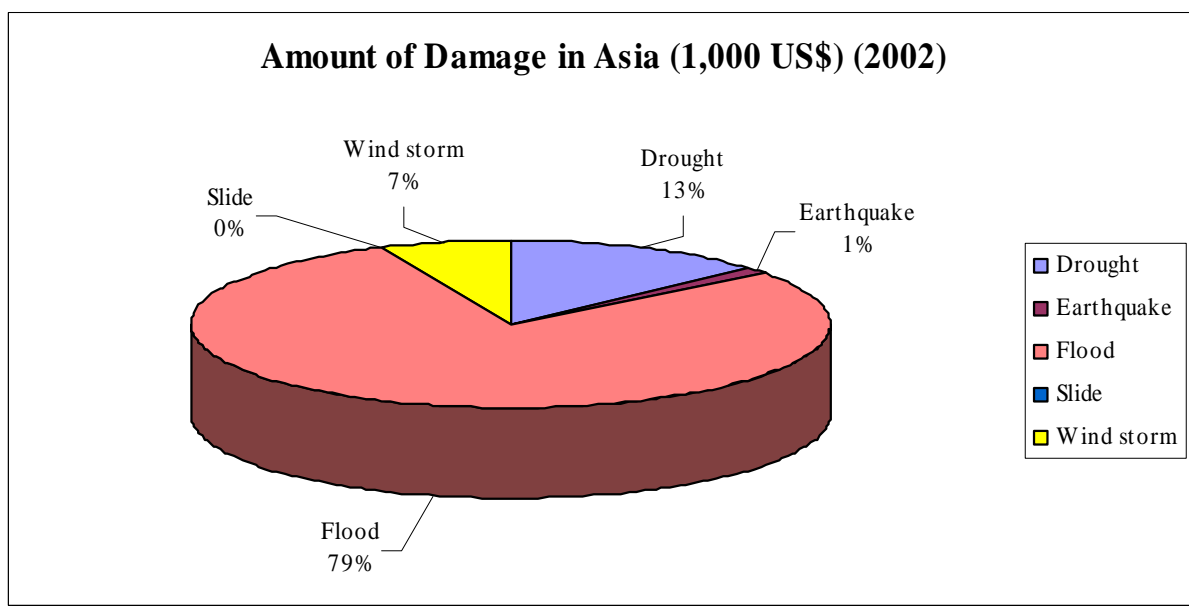
Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002

Figure 7:



Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002

Figure 8:



Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002

The above figures clearly show the trend in Asian natural disasters, their impacts, and characteristics for the year 2002. It is equally important to analyze disaster impact on economic development and efforts for sustainable development in order to

stimulate effective disaster risk management approaches. The following section will illustrate these issues in detail with respect to human development and income levels.