

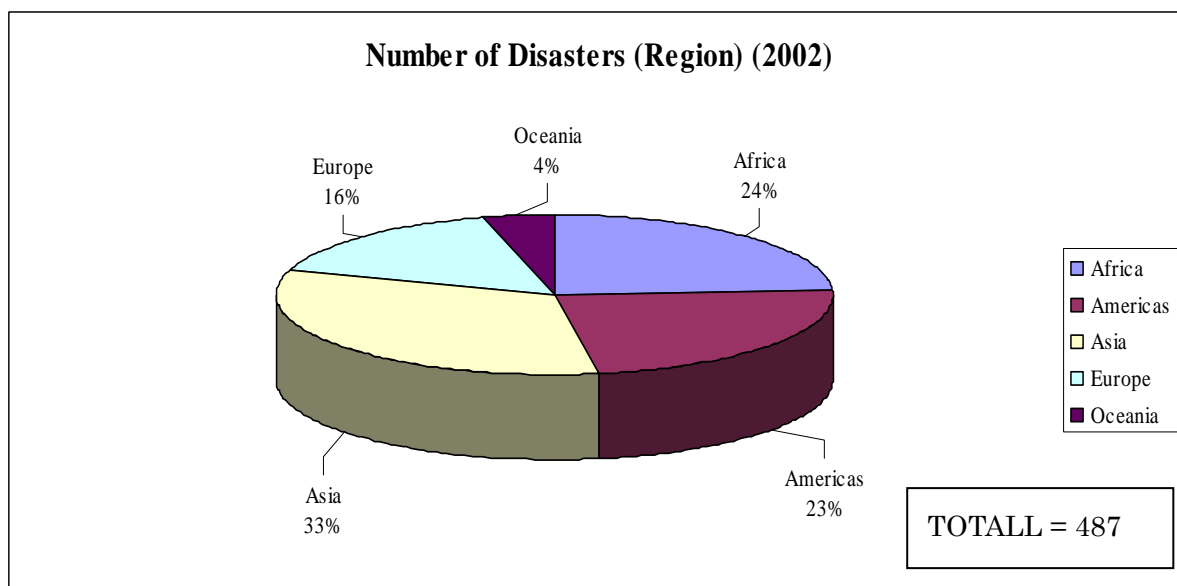
Chapter 3: Regional Characteristics of Natural Disasters

3.1 Proportion of Natural Disasters in the World According to Region:

The majority of the disasters in the year 2002 occurred in Asia, with 33%, followed by Africa, America, and Europe with 24%, 23%, and 16% respectively. Oceania had the least with only 4% of the total natural disasters that occurred in the world in the year 2002.

Figure 17 summarizes this data visually.

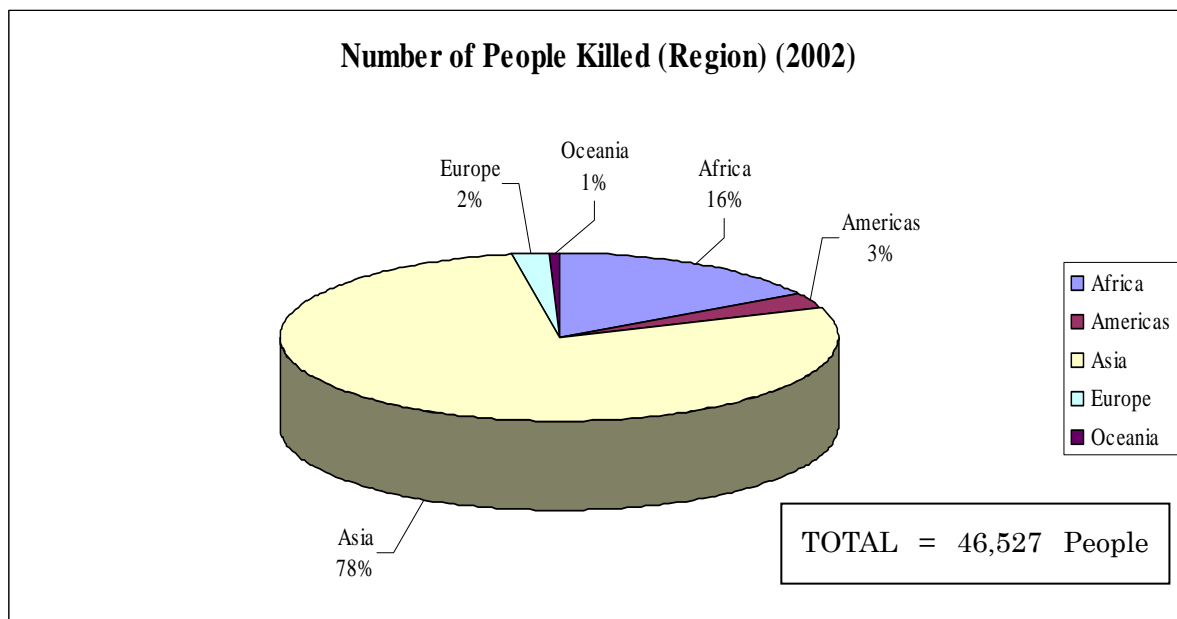
Figure 17:



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

As can be seen in Figure 18, the majority of people killed by natural disasters in the year 2002 lived in Asia, with 78% of the total number of people killed by disasters in the world. Another significant region is Africa, with 16%. All other regions register a very low percentage.

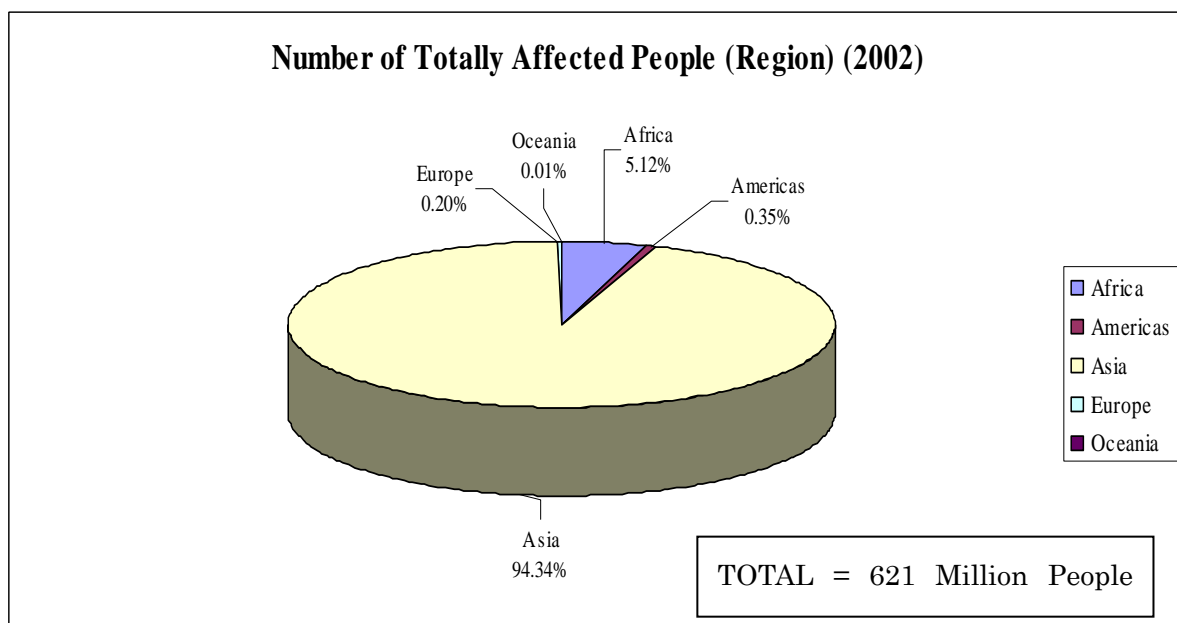
Figure 18:



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

As Figure 19 shows, once again the Asian region has recorded the highest percentage of *totally* affected people by natural disasters, with 94%. It clearly demonstrates the disaster vulnerability of the region and low socio-economic profiles.

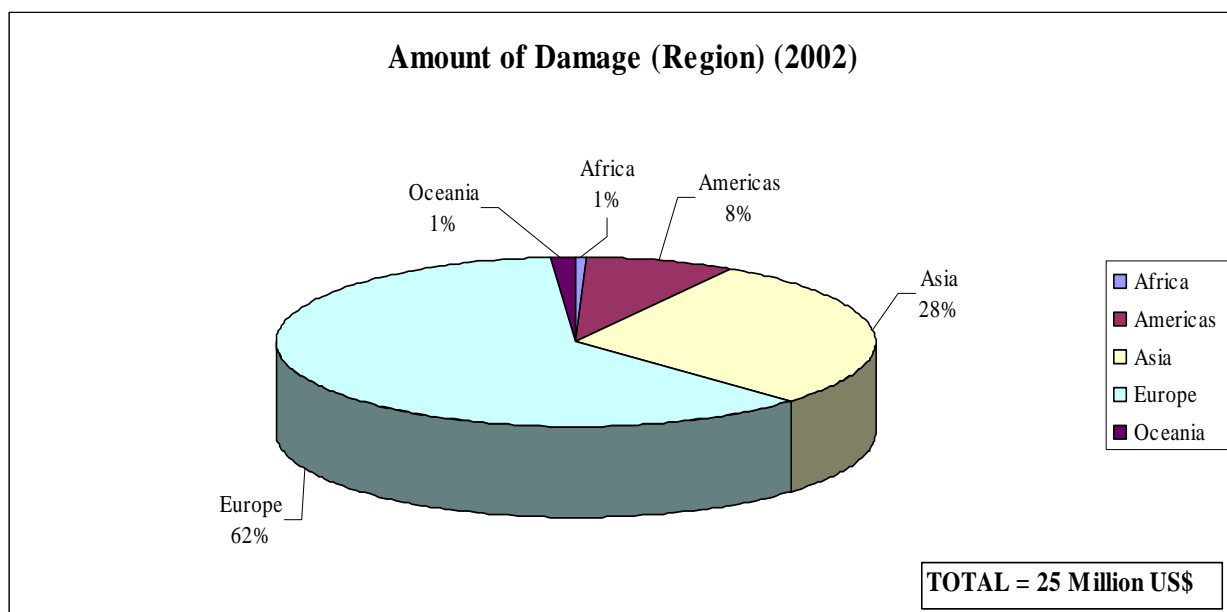
Figure 19:



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

According to Figure 20, in contrast to above figures, Europe accounts for the majority of the economic damage caused by natural disasters in the year 2002. This is mainly due to the 2002 Europe flood and the socio-economic structure of the region. Europe is followed by Asia with 28% of the economic loss in the year 2002. All other regions accounted for much less economic damage.

Figure 20:



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

These figures indisputably demonstrate that the disaster vulnerability of the Asian region cannot be neglected in relation to global sustainable development and the implementation of disaster management plans.