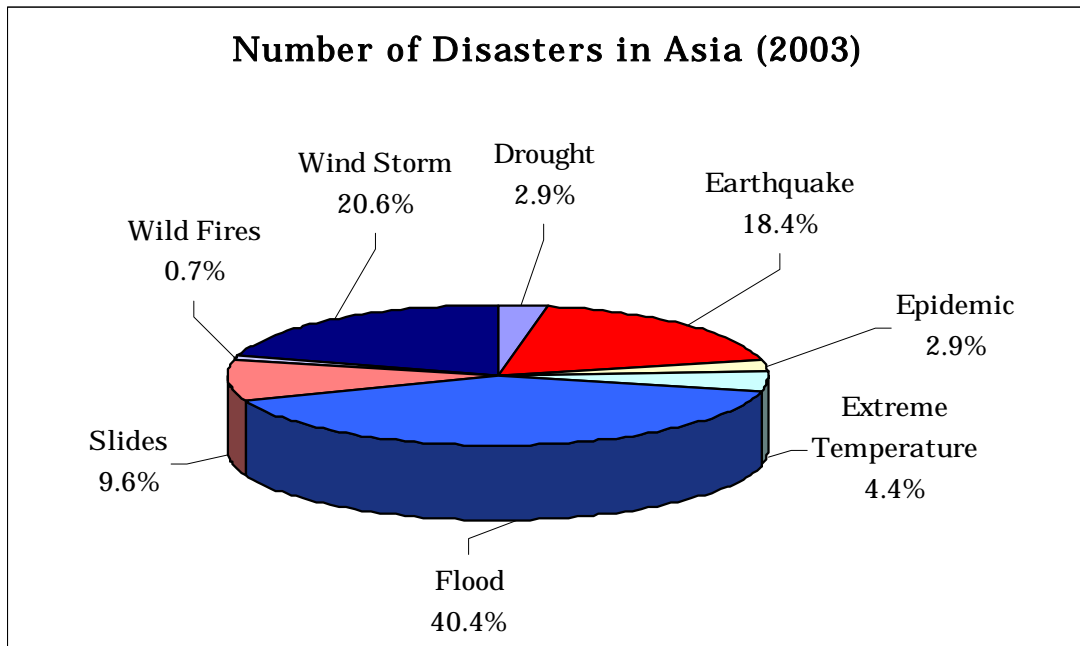


3.2.3 Characteristics of Disasters in Asia:

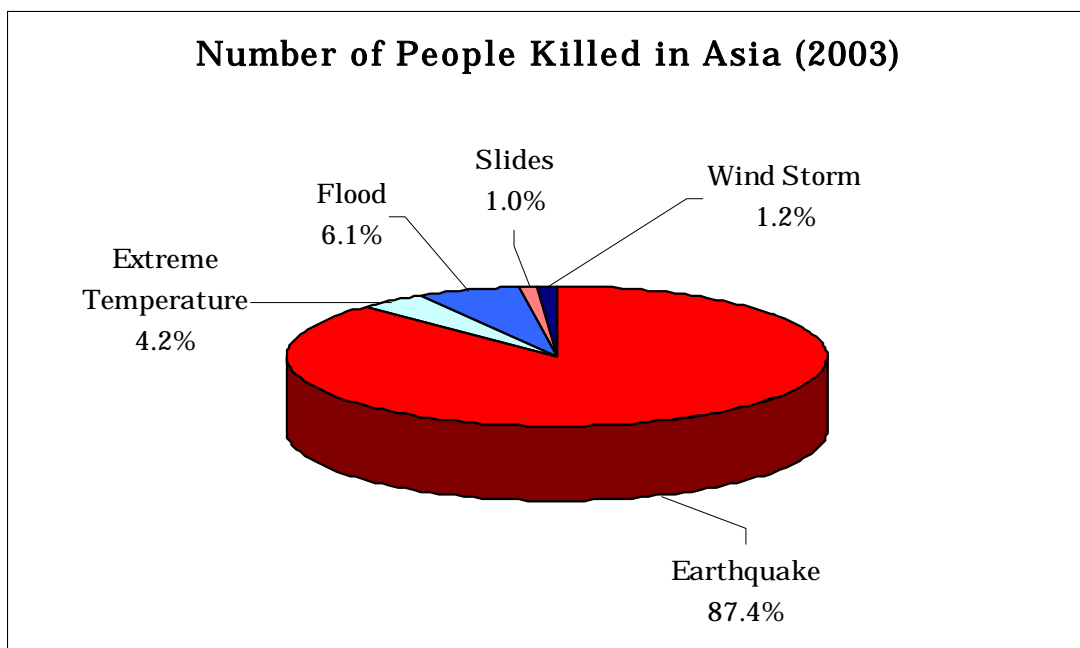
In the earlier section, it was demonstrated that the Asian region is highly vulnerable to natural disasters. The same trend will also be observed in the following discussion. According to Figure 35, floods, windstorms and earthquake have occurred at a greater rate than other disasters. About 61% of disasters that occurred in Asia were windstorms and floods, followed by earthquakes with 18%. It is noteworthy to observe in relation that Iran's Bam Earthquake has caused the greatest human loss (Figure 36), along with China, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh flood. It is evident from Figure 37 that droughts, floods, and windstorms caused severe human suffering in Asia as almost all the people affected by natural disasters in the region in 2003 were affected by these types of disasters. Further, 99% of the economic damage was also due to floods, windstorms and earthquake in the above specified countries in the region (Figure 38). Hence, it can be concluded that the Asian region is severely prone to disasters and vulnerable to both hydro meteorological and geophysical disasters. The following figures from 35 to 38 clearly depict these trends.

Figure 35:



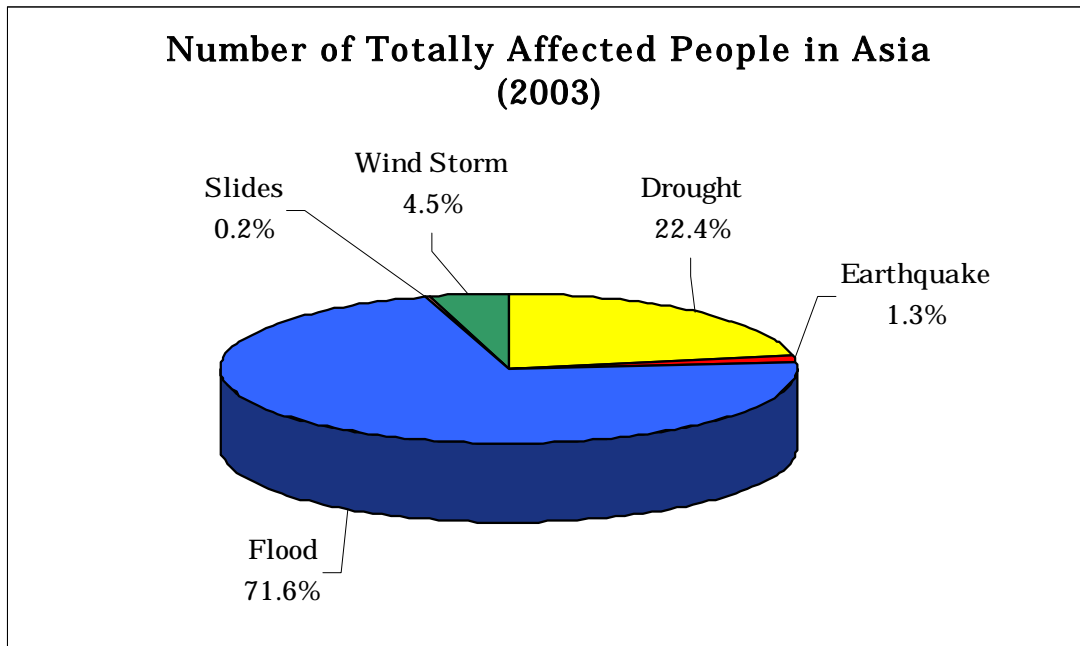
Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2003

Figure 36:



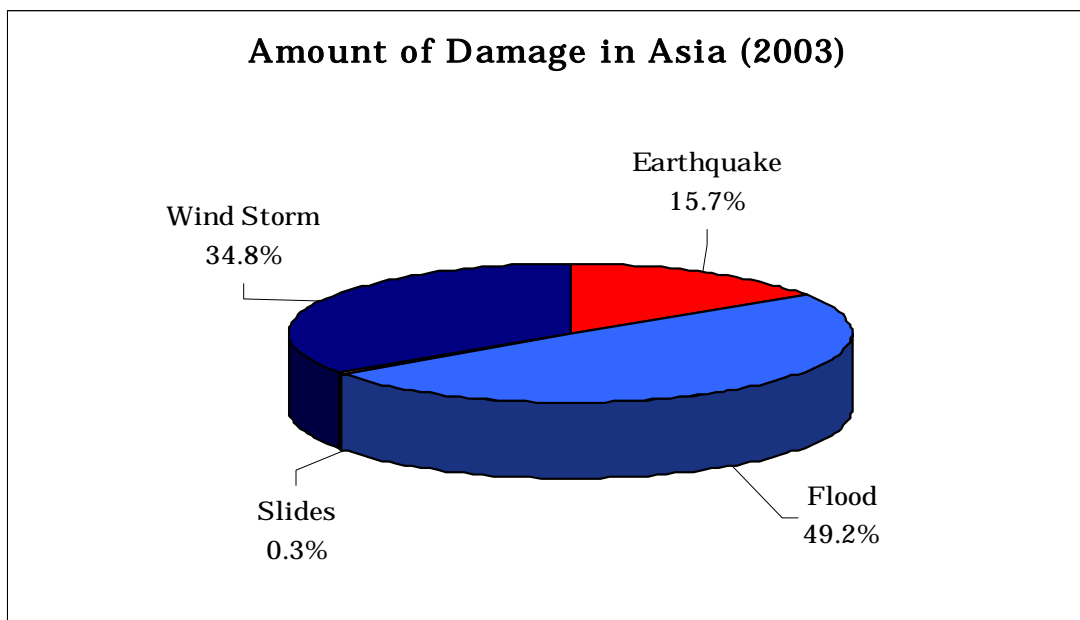
Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2003

Figure 37:



Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2003

Figure 38:



Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2003