



ADRC Highlights

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➤ Visiting Researchers of ADRC No.2

Following to the last edition, Mr. Babul Akhter, who is currently working as a Visiting Researcher from Bangladesh reports his impression of the activities in ADRC.

□ ADRC & Visiting Researcher Program by Babul Akhter



I grew up in a country where natural disaster like flood, cyclone, drought and tidal bore are common to almost every year. The peculiar geographical location of Bangladesh has made the country disaster prone. The majority of Bangladesh's population lives in rural areas and majority of them are poor. The suddenness and massive destruction of a hazard makes it very difficult to cope within limited resource.

I am working in a state-run microfinance funding institute where I learnt the true picture of poverty in Bangladesh. Microcredit is the most effective measure in the ongoing struggle to reduce poverty in the third world. We provide assistance to the poor, the landless and assetless people for generating income. Besides the operation of disaster management, we should emphasize and focus on improvement of socio-economic condition of the country so that the people can cope with disaster themselves without having any foreign aid.

I came to ADRC as a visiting Researcher in order to be more specialized in disaster issues in Asian region. When I came here I had a vague idea about how a center can link with the other countries in Asian region. I was curious about how disaster mitigation works on the other side of the world and I am happy when ADRC takes me as a visiting researcher. ADRC has developed me personally over range of competencies in a way to disseminate information of disaster. During the research period, I had opportunity to visit to different international and government organization in Japan and I exchanged my views and some ideas with them. I had also few presentations where I had a chance to inform the real picture of poverty and disaster situation in Bangladesh.

Thanks to ADRC. The support is great. The people in ADRC are very friendly and willing to lend hand whenever I need support. It is a valuable experience in my life. ADRC has given me the knowledge of

forward-looking and effective disaster reduction strategies. I learnt how to build a strong international cooperation through exchange of information among disaster-prone countries. I realize what I learn here exactly I need it. I firmly believe when I will return to my country, I can make a significant contribution from my experience at ADRC.

(Visiting Researcher, ADRC / Assistant Manager, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation, Bangladesh)

➤ Recent Natural Disaster

□ Tremendous Deluge Hits Asia

Nearly 10 million people have left homeless and almost 1,000 people have been killed in India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.

Viet Nam

People living in the Mekong River delta in southern Vietnam are currently experiencing the longest lasting and the most severe flooding to assail the area in 40 years. The death toll had risen to 149, mostly children, on Wednesday, September 27. Floodwater have inundated more than half million houses and destroyed hundreds and thousands of acres of rice crops.

(9/27 Reuters, 9/25 OCHA etc.)

India

Over the past week, heavy monsoon rains have caused a second wave of floods in the vast and densely populated area of the Indian State of West Bengal. Nearly 400 people have died, while at least 15 million are still marooned. Also in the State of Bihar, the flood situation has turned for the worse. It is reported 108 people have died and almost 4 million people have been affected.

(9/25 OCHA etc.)

Bangladesh

Bangladesh Government has called Army in aid of Civil Administration to rescue flood marooned which have been inundated by flood caused by sudden on-rush of water from across the border and incessant rainfall for the last few days. Mujib Nagar of Meherpur, Meheshpur of Jhinaidah and Dhamurhuda of Chuadanga district are worst affected areas. Army and Civil Administration are engaged to rescue the affected people. 1.5 million people have been seriously affected and 7 persons lost their lives. The warehouse at Damurhuda Police Station under Chuadanga district containing 1,200 tons of foodgrains has gone under water. Government is handling the situation efficiently.

(9/29 Posted by Khabiruddin Ahmed, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh)

If you have comments or needs for this Newsletter, please write to ADRC in the right box.

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