



ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News Vol.14

December 18, 2000

➤ The 3rd ADRC Int'l Meeting was held in Kobe in Dec.

ADRC held the 3rd ADRC Int'l Meeting in Kobe inviting disaster management officials in member & advisory countries.

- **Date: 5 to 7 December, 2000**
- **Venue: Asian Disaster Reduction Center, Kobe**
- **Participants: 40 disaster mgt. experts from 26 member/ advisory countries and 6 int'l organizations. (Total 60)**
- **Program**

Following the Opening Address by Dr. Shigeru Itoh, Chairman, ADRC and Welcome Remarks by Mr. Masashi Tamura, Councilor of the National Land Agency (NLA), Japan, Mr. Leo Meninga Chairman of the Papua New Guinea National Disaster Committee expressed his gratitude to ADRC on the Tsunami Awareness Project jointly promoted with ADRC. This project worked effectively at the actual tsunami occurred in this November, which caused property damage with no human casualty.

After the keynote speech by Dr. Yujiro Ogawa, Executive Director, ADRC on "ADRC's Activity of Past 2 Years and its Future Prospect" each participants from member / advisory countries and related international organizations made 5 minutes report on specific matters in disaster management.

From afternoon on day1 to the evening on day2, 3 session meetings were held.

□ Session 1: "Promotion of Disaster Reduction Cooperation in the Asian Region"

Chaired by Mr. Toshiyasu Noda, Director, Coordination Div., Disaster Prevention Bureau, NLA, Japan

After ADRC secretariat gave an overview of the cooperative project's objectives and systems, 4 regional cooperative projects on going have been introduced by representatives of each country. The 4 projects are following:

1. Nepal "Public Awareness Raising Programme for Disaster Reduction"
2. Cambodia "Capacity Building for Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Program"
3. Indonesia "Community Based Flood Mitigation Project"
4. Sri Lanka "Disaster Management Training Program"

Through summary discussion after these presentations, we confirmed the importance of human resource development and raising public awareness for disaster reduction. We also agreed on seeking for good advice and views for these projects from other ADRC members to foster the future ADRC cooperative project.

From the point of view that our capacity is quite limited, we discussed the necessity of the collaboration and cooperation with other international organizations through the presentation of the attendee from OCHA, HABITAT, WHO, UNCRD, ADPC, APDMC. We also made sure that all the member and advisory countries and observer organization should keep closer ties with each other for the efficient and effective activities.

□ Session 2 "International Emergency Relief"

Chaired by Ms. Feng Min Kan, Regional Advisor, Asian Disaster Response Unit, UN OCHA

After the presentations on disaster situations and response efforts in each country by the delegates from Cambodia, India, Mongolia, Switzerland, Tajikistan and Vietnam, the participants were divided into three groups to discuss cooperation on disaster

preparedness and mitigation, including the exchange of training and capacity building. The following points were suggested in the group discussion:

- Update an inventory of emergency response resources, capabilities, and focal points.
- Importance of post disaster needs analysis.
- Improve existing response mechanisms and simplify the procedure for international and bilateral assistance.
- Strengthen national response capabilities.
- Encourage participation of Asian countries in UNDAC system.
- Improve coordination and response capacities between UN agencies and ADRC member countries.
- Share experiences and knowledge on disasters and disaster management between the member countries and organizations through homepages, newsletters and printed materials.
- Establish a relief fund and reserve relief goods in a regional stockpile warehouse.
- Mobilize political support and commitment.
- Strengthen the relationship and partnership between existing resources and other organizations.

□ Session 3: "Promotion of Information Sharing on Disaster Reduction"

Chaired by Mr. Morris Bradley, Director of Business Management, EMA, Australia

This session was divided into two chapters.

At Chapter1, ADRC introduced the Internet GIS System 'VENTEN', which ADRC developed and has been operating on the Internet. Mr. Maki researcher of UNCRD reported on UNCRD-ADRC Cooperative project on 'Digital Maps of Active Faults', as an example of effective use of VENTEN. Followed by two presentations on 'Utilization of Satellite Data for Disaster Reduction' by Mr. Ohmori NEC and 'Utilization of Helicopter Vision for Disaster Management' by Mr. Tada, NTT-Data, participants recognized that VENTEN together with the state of the art remoted sensing technologies using satellites and aircrafts would be important for future disaster information sharing, that ADRC would promote the effective use of this technology with the cooperation of member/ advisory countries and related government/ private sectors.

At Chapter 2, Mr. Bradley introduced the Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN) activities which aims global disaster information sharing, also Mr. Rego, ADPC reported on the GDIN Asia Pacific Working Group activities. ADRC reported its positive concern of this Global information sharing activities. Participants from member countries recognized that they are already involved in these Global activities through ADRC, and agreed further cooperation on ADRC's information collection and dissemination along with GDIN activities.

□ Summary

ADRC will continuously make efforts to facilitate disaster information sharing through collecting and disseminating information from member / advisory countries and related organizations. ADRC will also create a database on donor organizations and resources for emergency relief so that quick and effective response might be possible against large disasters. At the same time, participants expressed their positive cooperation for information dissemination through ADRC.

ADRC will continuously fulfill its responsibility for the reduction of damage from natural disasters in Asia in the coming 21st century along with making the future strategy clear and focusing on major activities.

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

Published by : Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)

3rd Floor, IHD Bld. 1-5-1, WAKIHAMAKAIGAN-DORI, CHUO-KU, KOBE

651-0073, JAPAN E-mail: editor@adrc.or.jp Phone:+81-78-230-0346