



# ADRC Highlights Vol.22

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

April 16, 2001

## ➤ Disaster Information Sharing by "Unique ID Number"

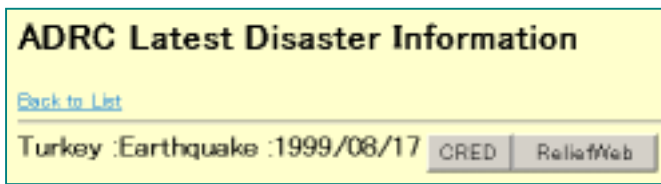
### □ -Join Our "Unique ID Number" Project. -

As we introduced in Vol. 20 of ADRC Highlights, the project of the "Unique ID Number" for the disaster information has been adopted as one of the pilot projects at the 4th Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN) Conference.

At present, numerous organizations operate their own disaster databases and open them to the public through their homepages. Also, when a new disaster occurs, it will be reported in the web not only by the organizations of the affected country, but also by the organizations and mass media in other countries. ADRC is one of these organizations. On knowing the occurrence of a disaster, ADRC searches information on the websites of research institutes or mass media worldwide, and also tries to get in touch with the person in charge of the affected country for more detailed information on the disaster. The results are the "Latest Disaster Information" pages in our website.

However, in searching disaster information on the Internet, the following problems exist:

- (1) We have to search the database of each organization or individually in every disaster occurrence
- (2) In some cases, we cannot find the relevant data by search engine because each organization uses different name for the same disaster.
- (3) The linkages to the information of the other organization are not automatically updated with the change of the structure of database and homepage in each organization.



By using "Unique ID Number", a common cord, the situation will be drastically changed and it will become easier for one to search the database of natural disasters in the past and the present.

To add "Unique ID Number" to your database, you need to follow the procedures below:

- (1) Add the column of a "Unique ID Number" to your database of disaster information.  
Download the CRED disaster data in the past.  
(<http://www.cred.be/emdat/disdat1.htm>)
- (3) Input the CRED ID number correspondent to the disaster information of your database in the column which you added in (1).

Next, in order to show your data by using "Unique ID Number" as a key;

- (4) create a program to show the data by searching your database with a "Unique ID Number" as a key.

If you have already opened your database to the public, you could manage it only by minor change in your existing program.

Finally, in order to refer directly to the related information of other organizations for the person who accesses to your data;

- (5) create buttons for linkage to the related organizations which have their URL and the "Unique ID Number".

With the above 5 procedures, your database will be shared among the organizations that use "Unique ID Number".

CRED, ReliefWeb of UN-OCHA, and ADRC are promoting this "Unique ID Number" project. We will publish a manual for the introduction of easy procedures of "Unique ID Number" to your database.

Please join our "Unique ID Number" project for the effective disaster information sharing!

## ➤ ADRC Cooperative Project

### □ Sri Lanka: Disaster Management Training Program

As we introduced in the Vol. 20 of ADRC Highlights, we have started our regional cooperative project with Sri Lanka. To monitor the training project our staff member visited project sites and observed training program designed for local government officers during the period of 26 to 31 March 2001.



Sri Lanka is a country prone to natural disasters such as floods, landslides, cyclones, and droughts. To train the local government officials for disaster management is very urgent task.

The training held at the government institute in Sri Jayewardenepura in the capital of Sri Lanka. The governors and vice governors of 25 divisions participated in the training. The training included lectures, group discussions, and field visits to the related organizations. Mr. Nimal Dharmasiri Hettiarachchi, a former ADRC Visiting Researcher, gave a lecture by using the new knowledge learnt in ADRC. It was also unique that they did "Town-Watching", the program for the resident awareness to walk and observe the real situation of the town by residents themselves, with the village people in floods-prone areas in the field trip program.

The participants evaluated the training highly, the same kinds of program will be carried out in July and November 2001. We expect the improvement of their disaster management capacity will contribute to the effectiveness of disaster management at the local level in Sri Lanka.

(by Ryoosuke AOTA, Senior Researcher)

## ➤ Field Survey of GEIYO Earthquake (Occurred in March 24, 2001 / Mw 6.4)

ADRC team conducted a field survey in the affected sites of GEIYO Earthquake in Hiroshima, Japan from April 9 to 10, 2001. The team could not find much heavy damages since the survey was conducted two weeks after the disaster. Many of the affected sites have been restored or were undergoing reconstruction. The life of people in affected areas seemed to become normal.

The team learnt that limited damages and the early recovery were possible because of the disaster preparedness which had been enforced after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995. However, many affected people keep visiting the office of the City Hall for the official assistance. ADRC team will continue to monitor the official recovery measures in the affected areas.

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](mailto:editor@adrc.or.jp) Phone: +81-78-230-0346