



ADRC

Highlights

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➤ **ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report**
□ **Disaster Prevention Drill in Shizuoka**



With ADRC support under visiting researcher programme, I had the opportunity to go and watch the Disaster Prevention Drill carried out at Atami City, Shizuoka Prefecture on the "Disaster Prevention Day" of September 1st. 86 groups comprising

4000 people jointly staged a comprehensive drill. They were from relevant Government offices, Prefectures, Municipal, self disaster mitigation organizations, and Fire Fighting organizations, disaster related organizations and educational organizations along with 191 cars, 17 airplanes, 9 ships and many other relevant facilities.

The exercise settings were very realistic through the use of helicopters to rescue the victims from the roof of the house and from the sea, the fire extinguishers to put out the fire, the fire fighting organization to demonstrate its ability and capacity in fire fighting. In addition, the medical teams instructed people how to dress the wound of the injuries etc. Every activity was quite impressive, but the one that impressed me much was that of the volunteer group.

I think that Disaster Prevention Drill is very important. We can use this time for functional and readiness checks of facilities. These need to be carried out periodically to ensure that key facilities and systems are serviceable and ready for use. Besides, the drill makes the participants used to quick and accurate actions in collaboration with other community residents and other disaster related organs when disaster occurred. On the other hand, it can be used as the forum for promoting activities and disseminating of knowledge on Disaster Prevention.

(So Ban Heang, ADRC Visiting Researcher / Secretary of the Scientific and Technical Committee, General Secretariat, National Committee for Disaster Management, Cambodia)

➤ **"Hyogo-Gujarat Friendship Fund" Signing Ceremony**



On September 24, we had the ceremony for donation presentation from Hyogo Prefecture and singing of letter of agreement on "Hyogo-Gujarat Friendship Fund" at Gujarat, India. The person from Gujarat State Government and Hyogo Prefectural Government attended the ceremony in the

presence of the representative of UNCRD Hyogo Office (UN-Center for Regional Development), Univ. of Aryan-India Rookie, and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC).

The contribution money will be used for the "School Project" which was proposed by UNCRD and ADRC. We will construct a model school with quake-resistant structure in the affected area. We also provide education and training programs for disaster prevention at the school.

Both of the regional governments agreed to have the executive committee regularly for follow-up. Besides, taking advantage of this opportunity, they decided to share the lessons learnt from the catastrophe for their reconstruction programs.
(Fumiaki Yoshimura, Senior Researcher)

➤ **ADRC Staff Profiles No. 6**
□ **Dr. Harumi Yashiro, Senior Researcher**

Mr. Yashiro was transferred from the Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co., LTD (TOKIO MARINE) to the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) in September 2001.

He received doctor's degree in engineering at Waseda University. He specialized in the study of building construction. His main focus was on analyzing the failure criteria of reinforced concrete structure under earthquake loading.

After he joined the TOKIO MARINE, he had developed and implemented the estimation system of earthquake damage. He had also worked as a consultant for major Japanese companies and local governments that are interested in disaster prevention and crisis management for about 10 years.

He says that he will make best effort for the disaster reduction focusing on the international cooperation in ADRC by making use of his past experience.

➤ **Recent Natural Disaster in Asia**

□ **Floods in southern Vietnam**

The death toll from flooding in the Mekong Delta in southern Vietnam has risen to more than 150 people as of September 25. By far the majority of those killed have been children. With more than 100,000 houses under water, more than 600,000 people are homeless. The national anti-flood committee says the worst affected areas are the provinces of An Giang and Dong Thap.

□ **Typhoon hit Taiwan**

On September 17, Typhoon Nari struck northern Taiwan. At least 85 people have been killed by floods, landslides etc. as of September 21. The typhoon also caused hundreds of millions of dollars worth of damage to agriculture and the country's infrastructure, including the subway system in the capital, Taipei.

□ **Floods in India**

Bihar, northern east state of India, has been severely affected by the flood triggered by heavy rains in catchment areas. At least 171 people were killed, and nearly seven million people in more than 4400 villages were affected as of September 26.

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

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