



# ADRC Highlights

Vol.39

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

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January 16, 2002

## Happy New Year!

*Greetings and best wishes from ADRC staff on the year of the galloping horse.*



All of ADRC staff will gallop with all our energy and enthusiasm towards natural disaster reduction in Asia. Three and a half years passed since the establishment of ADRC in Kobe, the place which experienced the damage and the recovery from the earthquake in 1995. We hope our activities in information dissemination, model disaster reduction projects with member countries, human resources development programmes and the Internet-GIS VENTEN system have contributed to disaster reduction in Asia and would like to build further on the network of our member countries and our contact institutions. Disaster reduction involves various specialities and have to be approached

in a multidisciplinary way. Countries in Asia have the wealth of experiences and know-hows in disaster reduction. We, ADRC would like to contribute to disaster reduction through linking and amalgamating these expertise and providing needed information and services. Therefore, we would like to ask you assistance and cooperation in our pursuit.



ADRC Staff Members

### ➤ We are ADRC Member Countries!! No. 1

The ADRC is composed of 23 member countries, 4 advisory countries, and an observer organization. We would like to introduce our counterpart organizations of member countries in series in this column. The first of the series is an introduction of Cabinet Office, Japan.

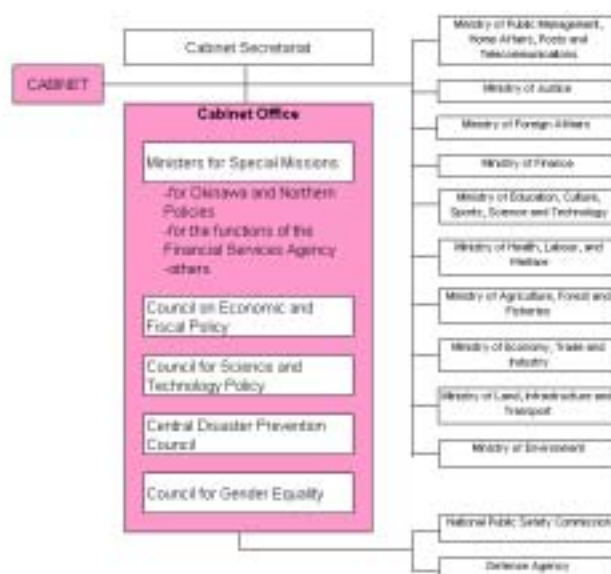
#### □ CABINET OFFICE, JAPAN

The Government of Japan has reformed the organization of the Central Government on January 6, 2001. Strengthening the functions of the Cabinet is an essential element of this reform. As a contribution to this element, the Cabinet Office headed by the Prime Minister has been established to reinforce the support system for the Cabinet and the Prime Minister.

In order to enable the Office to fully perform its functions of planning and comprehensive coordination, the positions of the Ministers for Special Missions, including Minister for Disaster Management, was created. These Ministers are equipped with solid coordinating power vis-a-vis the heads of related administrative branches; and four collegial bodies, including the Central Disaster Management Council, have been established, and having competent Ministers and highly-knowledgeable people as their members.

Central Disaster Management Council is one of the most important policy-making councils in the Cabinet Office, and the Director-General for disaster management, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, is mandated to undertake planning, framing

and general coordination of disaster countermeasures. The Cabinet Office is also actively promoting international cooperation for disaster prevention through the promotion of United Nation's International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and through Asian Disaster Reduction Centre.



Organization of the Government

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

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- **ESCAP-WMO Typhoon Committee**
- **ADRC deliver ISDR Message to the committee**



The 34th session of ESCAP-WMO Typhoon Committee was held in Honolulu from 28 Nov. to 4 Dec with the U.S. National Weather Service as the host. This year the committee was to focus its discussion

on three areas, Meteorology, Hydrology and Disaster Prevention & Preparedness. Since the activities of these Tropical Cyclone Panels have close relations with disaster reduction, UN-ISDR secretariat requested ADRC to deliver ISDR message to the Typhoon Committee calling on closer participation to ISDR activities.

The Committee also discussed its "Regional Cooperation Programme Implementation Plan (RCPEP) 2002-2006." In the Disaster Prevention & Preparedness component of this plan, ADRC was identified as the volunteer organization to prepare and distribute a list of Internet websites which Typhoon committee Members can access for disaster preparedness and prevention information. ADRC was also identified as the focal point to increase the availability and sharing of current and new training information to its Members.

➤ **Visit ADRC New Homepage!**

ADRC homepage has been updated just today. The refreshing concept is "Take usability a step further." We will provide:

- 1 Powerful searching system not only for ADRC database (the Latest Disaster Information, the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Database, and ADIC-Accident and Disaster Database), but also for other website powered by Google.
- 2 Customized menu prepared for officer, researcher and general users
- 3 Clickable maps and Menu display with layer for more user friendly
- 4 New layout and colors with giving consideration to eyestrain



- 5 The double constitution by graphical pages and text pages in consideration of the width of the communication band (available from the end of March)



Please Access and click to the innovated ADRC homepage (<http://www.adrc.or.jp>). ADRC will continue to make efforts for creating user-friendlier homepage. If you have any comment, inquiry or requirement for our homepage, please feel free to contact me.

- **Conference Information**
- **Symposium on Best Practices in Humanitarian Information Exchange**

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) hosts this symposium in Geneva, Switzerland on 5-8 February, 2002. For further information, please refer <http://www.reliefweb.int/symposium/concept.htm>.

- **Recent Natural Disaster in Asia**
- **A Strong Earthquake Rocked Tajikistan**

At 11:45 (06:46 GMT) on 9 January 2002, an earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter Scale struck an area of Tajikistan near to the town of Rogun, approximately 100 km east of the capital Dushanbe.

The effects of the earthquake were assessed in two villages of Taghi Akbar and Talkhan Chashma, site of the biggest damage, where three casualties and six non-life threatening injured people were reported. Over 90% of the houses were found to be destroyed or damaged beyond repair.

(1/11 OCHA Situation Report No.1)

- **Floods Caused Heavy Damage in Russia**

Heavy floods have forced thousands of people in southern Russia to flee their homes, as rivers broke their banks due to warmer weather after heavy snowfalls. Hundreds of buildings were flooded in several villages along the river bank, a spokesman for Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry said.

(1/10 BBC News etc.)

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