



# ADRC Highlights

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## ➤ ADRC participates in ISDR-IATF Working Group2 Early Warning

The ISDR Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction Working Group2 on Early Warning was held on 24-25 June at GFZ (Geo Forschungszentrum) Potsdam hosted by DKKV (German Committee for Disaster Reduction). This is one of the 4 working groups



formed under the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction under the framework of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

WG2 is chaired by UNEP, WMO, UNCCD, CDERA, Drought Monitoring Center in Nairobi, ADRC, DKKV and the ISDR Secretariat participated. Discussions on WG2 website on early warning, Inventory of existing early warning systems, Guideline for development of indicators to measure efficiency of early warning systems were held.

The host DKKV introduced the German Government's intention to organize "International Early Warning Conference 2003 'Potsdam+5'" in October 2003 and was warmly welcomed by the group.

(Satoru Nishikawa, Executive Director)

## ➤ We are ADRC Member Countries! No.4

### □ Civil Defence Division of Department of Local Administration, Thailand

*The ADRC is composed of 23 member countries, 4 advisory countries, and an observer organization. This is the fourth of a series to introduce our counterpart organizations of member countries.*

The Civil Defence Secretariat (CDS) is the coordinating agency for the disaster relief operations and implementation of countermeasures against disaster throughout Thailand. Its main tasks are as follows:

1. Improving the National Civil Defence Master Plan with the aim to
  - clearly determining the jurisdiction and scope of responsibility of agencies concerned in each stage of disaster management.
  - strengthening coordination and cooperation between departments and agencies involved with Disaster Prevention and Preparedness activities.
  - developing the capabilities of disaster-related organization on disaster prevention and preparedness.
  - improving communication systems for early warning and information dissemination and relief operations.
  - cooperation with NGOs and the public for disaster mitigation and preparedness activities
2. Implementing public awareness on disaster preparedness activities with the emphasis on early warning system for typhoon and flood
3. Disseminating information on disaster to the residents of disaster prone areas

4. Organizing seminars, meetings, workshops, training courses as follows:

- training course for trainers on disaster prevention and relief operation of municipality and Pattaya city.
- training course for basic and experienced firemen of municipality and Pattaya city.

5. Scrutinizing and approving the budget requests submitted by provinces and districts affected by disaster for the rehabilitation of infrastructure and normalization of the lives of inhabitants of disaster-stricken areas before submitting them further to the National Budget Bureau for reimbursement of those projects.

[More information about Civil Defence Management in Thailand, such as organization structure, is available on our website. Please click here.](#)

## ➤ Recent Natural Disasters in Asia

### □ Flood Disaster in India

Incessant monsoon rains since the beginning of July have caused flooding in several parts of India. The affected states are Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Kerala, of which the worst affected are Assam and Bihar in northeastern India.

According to the Government of India, as of 10 July 2002, the floods and landslides have killed 199 people and affected the lives of 941,000 persons. Physical infrastructure has also been severely affected with more than 9,000 houses destroyed or damaged.

(7/11 OCHA Situation Report No. 1)

### □ Bangladesh is on alert for flood disaster

Triggered by heavy monsoon rains since the beginning of July, large areas of Bangladesh have been inundated leaving thousands of people marooned or displaced. At least 12 people have been killed in flood-related incidents.

The Bangladesh flood information centre says that while the situation is not yet a crisis, matters will take a marked turn for the worse if the current high levels of rainfall continue. Bangladesh's worst floods in 1988 killed more than 3,500. (7/10 BBC News, CNN News etc.)

### □ Typhoon Chata'an hit Asia-Pacific Countries

On July 7, 2002, Typhoon Chata'an, which earlier triggered a landslide that killed dozens of people in Micronesia, hit Philippine causing flash floods, landslides, high seas and so on which killed at least 17 people. Nearly 15,000 people were forced to flee their homes in the capital Manila and nearby provinces.

In the wake of the heavy damage in Philippine, typhoon Chata'an churned along Japanese archipelago from July 9 to July 11, causing heavy rains and flooding. As of July 12, 4 people were killed, 2 were missing, and more than 100,000 people were urged to evacuate their homes.

(7/11 Reuters News, 7/12 Situation Report by Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Japan etc.)

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

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