



# ADRC Highlights Vol.52

## Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

August 1, 2002

### ➤ We are ADRC Member Countries! No.5

#### □ The National Disaster Management Office, Lao PDR

ADRC has 24 member countries (Kyrgyzstan joined in July 2002), 4 advisory countries, and an observer organization. This is the fifth of a series to introduce our counterpart organizations of member countries.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) was given the responsibility for disaster risk management in 1995. In the process of developing its capacity to perform this role, a National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) was established in 1997 with support from UNDP.

A landmark decree, signed by the Prime Minister in August 1999, provided for the establishment of an inter-ministerial National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) as a policy making and coordination body. The NDMO functions as the Secretariat of the NDMC and has a range of responsibilities, which include:

- Providing expert advice to the NDMC.
- Promoting coordination with ministerial focal points.
- Promoting disaster mitigation and preparedness activities at the local level.
- Implementing community awareness activities.
- Providing training, guidelines and plans to make disaster risk management more effective.
- Establishing disaster management implementation teams at the national, provincial and district level.

Diagram of Organization on Disaster Management in Lao PDR



In order to carry out these responsibilities, the NDMO has four functional units: (1) Relief, (2) Disaster Management Planning, (3) Information and Dissemination and (4) Training. Each unit is under the leadership of a Unit Manager. Currently about 11 staffs are employed at the NDMO.

At the provincial level, the primary responsibilities for disaster management rest with Provincial Disaster Management Committees (PDMC), which were established in 2000 by the Prime Minister. The NDMO functions as the main link between these provincial committees and the NDMC.

### ➤ New Publication: "ADRC Annual Report No.4 (2001)"

On July 30, 2002, ADRC celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment. We really appreciate your great support which enable us to have remarkable achievement in the field of disaster reduction. The

annual report No.4 to introduce our activities in 2001 is now available at our website (<http://www.adrc.or.jp/annual/01/01eng/top.htm>). The printed version is also available by postage paid on delivery. Please contact Mr. Yoshimura (E-mail: [yoshimura@adrc.or.jp](mailto:yoshimura@adrc.or.jp)) for further information.

### ➤ ADRC Staff Profiles No.15

#### □ Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki, Senior Researcher

It is a great honor to be able to introduce myself to the readers of the ADRC Highlights. I started my new assignment as a senior researcher at ADRC on July 1, 2002 and find it very stimulating to work at this center. Until the end of June, I worked as an economic and social affairs officer at the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), based in Geneva, since its establishment in January 2000. I was the focal point for the Asia region as well as for the follow-up activities to the RADIUS (Risk Management Tools for Diagnosis of Urban Areas against Seismic Disasters) project. Prior to ISDR, from September 1997 to December 1999, I worked at the Secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), predecessor arrangement of the ISDR Secretariat.



Based on the experience of IDNDR, ISDR strives to enable all societies and communities to become resilient to natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters by promoting partnerships and networking among all sectors related to disaster reduction such as countries, NGOs, international and regional organizations, research institutes, educational institutions, the media, etc. The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), whose goal is also to reduce the negative impact of natural disasters, is a member of the ISDR Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF), contributing to enhancing the activities of the IATF and the ISDR Secretariat through providing guidance for the development of the disaster reduction strategy and fostering cooperation and networking among Asian countries.

At ADRC, I will be the focal point for ISDR and will endeavor to promote disaster risk and vulnerability reduction activities in Asia, using my knowledge and experience at the IDNDR and ISDR Secretariats. I am pleased to be offered this challenging opportunity and look forward to continuing working closely with all of you.

### ➤ The Recent Natural Disasters in Asia

#### □ Nepal is seriously affected by floods and landslides

Since July 13, incessant monsoon rains have triggered flash floods and landslides in twenty districts of Nepal. A total of 198 people have been killed, 115 injured, and 30 people went missing, according to the information provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs as of July 26, 2002.

(7/26 OCHA Situation Report No.3 etc.)

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

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