



ADRC Highlights Vol.53

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

August 19, 2002

➤ A New ADRC Member: Republic of Kyrgyz



ADRC welcomed Kyrgyzstan's participation as our 24th member country with the consent of all our member countries on July 24, 2002. The counterpart of the Kyrgyzstan is Mr. Eshmambetov Radbek Bakievich, Minister of Ecology and Emergency Situation.

The Kyrgyz Republic, which is located in the northwest region of the Tian Shan Mountains, has suffered a major earthquake in August 1992 near the border with China, landslides in the mountains and floods caused by the melting of snow. In this context, they seek active cooperation in developing disaster countermeasures alongside other Asian countries.

➤ ADRC held a Regional Workshop —Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM)

ADRC and OCHA Kobe co-organized a regional workshop on total disaster risk management in Kobe from August 7-9, 2002.



As demonstrated by recent disasters such as the ferry wreck in Bangladesh by a cyclone that occurred on May 3, 2002, the Asian region still suffers from disasters that could be prevented by better communication and coordination among relevant organizations.

Within this context, effective integration of the following elements is crucial to the effective deployment of the TDRM process.

- Address disaster management at all levels of social organization, from national to local governments, and in the communities themselves
- Carry out a holistic disaster management cycle consisting of disaster prevention, disaster response, rehabilitation and reconstruction
- Employ a multitude of organizations and systems, including: disaster prevention, search & rescue, urban planning, medicine and health care, meteorology, education and others
- Involvement of concerned organizations such as the United Nations, local institutions, national governments, NGOs and etc.

To these ends, government officials as policy and decision makers were invited to participate the workshop. They discussed how to put TDRM into practice in their respective countries.

In addition to the participation of Mr. Kenzo Oshima, Under-Secretary-General of UN-OCHA, and Mr. Salvano Briceño, Director of UN-ISDR, about 60 people from 16 countries gathered for this workshop.

Presentations on a variety of topics, including each countries' successful disaster prevention practices, the role of media for disaster reduction, examples of disaster prevention education after the occurrence of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake were conducted by the participants.

As a result of the workshop, Asian government officials in charge of disaster reduction deepened their awareness of the importance of TDRM policy, considered when they should implement TDRM approach based upon the examples provided in the presentations, and evaluated how the TDRM process is applicable in their countries.

At the upcoming annual meeting with ADRC member countries scheduled in January 2003, ways to implement TDRM approach in Asia will be further discussed. (Mr. Fumiaki Yoshimura, Senior Researcher)

➤ New Publication: "Living with Risk - a Global Review on Disaster Reduction Initiatives"

On 9 August in Tokyo, the United Nations launched "Living with Risk" - a global review on disaster reduction initiatives - published by the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).

"Living with Risk" is the first comprehensive UN report on disaster reduction initiatives to be carried out on a worldwide basis. It is a 400 page study of the lessons learned by experts and communities in response to hazards presented by natural forces as well as technological accidents and environmental degradation. The study examines the lessons learned during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) and examines the new pressures created by modern society. It also introduces examples of successful disaster reduction initiatives in which political involvement and better communication have saved lives and have begun to build hope for developing nations. Furthermore, "Living with Risk" examines the intricate links between economic development and environmental insecurity.

"Living with Risk" is a road map to a better world, in which communities live with the environment, rather than at hazard from its natural forces. The compilation of "Living with Risk" is one of the first steps of the ten-year review process set down in the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in Yokohama in 1994.

The initiative was supported by the Government of Japan, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as well as other countries, organizations, and experts. ADRC also contributed to the compilation of the report as a member of the Advisory Panel.

[The abridged translation in Japanese](#) has been posted on ADRC website (www.adrc.or.jp) and [the full text of the report](#) is available on ISDR (www.unisdr.org) and ADRC websites. For more information on the report, please contact Ms. Helena Molin Valdes (molinvaldes@un.org). For the Japanese version, please contact Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki (tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp). (Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki, Senior Researcher)

➤ The Recent Natural Disasters in Asia □ Torrential rains in South Asia have killed over 900

Floods triggered by the torrential monsoon rains have seriously affected wide areas of South Asia. In India, Bangladesh and Nepal, the total death toll stands more than 900, and the number of people displaced or trapped is about 25 million as of August 15, 2002.

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

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3rd Floor, 1HD Bld. 1-5-1, WAKIHAMAKAIGAN-DORI, CHUO-KU, KOBE
651-0073, JAPAN E-mail: editor@adrc.or.jp Phone: +81-78-230-0346