



ADRC Highlights Vol.59

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

November 18, 2002

➤ ADRC Cooperative Project 2002 (Singapore) □ International Urban Search and Rescue Course

For three years, the Singapore Civil Defense Force (SCDF) has provided training opportunities for overseas experts to learn tactics and techniques used in urban search and rescue (USAR) situations. The training course has been conducted in a wide range of training facilities of the Civil Defence Academy (CDA), which was established in 1999.

In 2001 and 2002 ADRC has cooperated with SCDF in inviting several participants from ADRC's member countries to join the course.

This year's course was held from November 11th until 22nd. ADRC supported for the participation of 5 disaster management experts from Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, the Philippines, and Vietnam.



Completion of the Shoring for Exercise by Group 1



Completion of the Shoring for Exercise by Group 2

The training course included not only lectures to learn the concepts and principles for managing and handling rescue operations in USAR settings, but also physical exercises to acquire the special skills and techniques for USAR, such as shoring methods, debris tunneling, search procedures with breathing apparatus, and collapsed building rescue.

The participants seemed to think that the experience to acquire actual techniques of search and rescue would be of great help for their future disaster management work.

SCDF is planning to have another International USAR course in January 2003 for ASEAN countries. For more information, please contact Ms. Miki Kodama (kodama@adrc.or.jp).

➤ Int'l Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety in Asian Mega Cities

ADRC participated in the International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety in Asian Mega Cities, which was held on October 28th in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Symposium was organized by the International Center for Urban Safety Engineering (ICUS/INCEDE), Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo's School of Civil Engineering, and the Asian Institute of Technology. It was supported by the Government of Thailand and the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan. The aim of the symposium was to discuss and promote cooperation between scientists and planners in order to enhance urban safety.

H.E. Mr. Suriya Jungreangkit, Transport Minister of Thailand,

stressed the importance of science and technology for disaster reduction and policy development in his keynote speech. H.E. Mr. Kenzo Yoneda, Senior Vice Minister of Japan's Cabinet Office, stressed the importance of disaster reduction for sustainable development of the region. The latest technologies and disaster reduction efforts being developed by various sectors in the two Asian countries were also introduced.



For more information, please contact Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki (tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp).

➤ Symposium on Indian National Day for Disaster Reduction

The Government of India held a symposium on the Indian National Day for Disaster Reduction on October 29, 2002 at the Nehru Memorial Teen Murti House in New Delhi, India. Since 2001, October 29 has been designated as the National Day for Disaster Reduction in India in commemoration of the devastating Super Cyclone Orissa that hit the state of Orissa on October 29, 1999. The presence of the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani, and other high-level government officials at the opening ceremony demonstrated the importance that the Indian government attaches to the subject of disaster reduction.

The symposium brought together disaster managers and experts from all over India and Asia as well as participants from other regions of the world. Many lessons learned from past disasters in India and other countries were introduced. The importance of regional and international cooperation in disaster reduction was stressed at the symposium.

In this context, ADRC introduced the role that it plays and how it collaborates with other relevant organizations in the region and throughout the world. The meeting of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) on Disaster Management followed the symposium.

For more information, please contact Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki (tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp) or Mr. V.P. Pasrija (pasrija@adrc.or.jp).

➤ Recent Natural Disasters in Asia □ Pakistan had a series of tremors

Three earthquakes jolted a mountainous area, some 50 km east of the town of Gilgit, Pakistan on November 2 & 3, 2002. According to the most recent figures, 11 people were killed and some 40 people were injured.

(11/12 OCHA Situation Report No.2)

□ A Strong Earthquake Rocked Sumatra, Indonesia

An earthquake measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale struck off the northwestern coast of the island of Sumatra in Indonesia on November 2, injuring 40 people and flattening dozens of houses and buildings.

(11/2 Reuters Alertnet etc.)

If you have comments or requests for this Newsletter, please write to ADRC at the address on the right.

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