



ADRC Highlights

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Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

November 16, 2003

➤ **ADRC participated in the Second International Conference on Early Warning (EWC II) held in Bonn, Germany**

The Second International Conference on Early Warning (EWC II) was held in Bonn, Germany on October 16-18, 2003, hosted by the Government of Germany under the auspices of the United Nations, supported by the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR). The EWC II built upon regional consultations and workshops which took place in various regions this year. Participants actively discussed how to reduce the negative impacts of hazards through improving early warning systems, and defined clear targets and accepted their respective responsibilities.



On the occasion of EWC II, a session entitled "Effective Early Warning - use of hazard maps as a tool for effective risk communication among policy makers and communities" was organized by the Government of Japan on October 17 and was chaired by ADRC. After the two keynote speeches by experts from the Cabinet Office and the Infrastructure Development Institute of the Government of Japan, Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Executive Director, ADRC, moderated a panel discussion on the effectiveness of hazard mapping as a tool to raise awareness and to enhance early warning with the panelists invited from Bangladesh, Korea, Philippines and Viet Nam. It was emphasized that hazard mapping is useful to raise awareness of the community when it is conducted in cooperation with all the stakeholders and with the consideration of each community's context. It was also agreed that the development of hazard mapping manuals adapted to local conditions and training would be effective to enhance early warning systems.

For more information on EWC II, please visit its website at <http://www.ewc2.org/>. For more information on the session organized by the Government of Japan, please contact rep@adrc.or.jp.

➤ **UNESCO Mid-term Meeting on the Cross-cutting Theme Initiative was held in Paris**

A Mid-term Meeting on the UNESCO Cross-cutting Theme Initiative "Reduction of Natural

Disasters in Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean" was held on 25-26 September 2003 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. The meeting was held to report on the progress of the project in the participating cities, Antofagasta (Chile), Dehradun (India), Kathmandu (Nepal), and Tijuana (Mexico), and to share experience gained from the project and other similar efforts. Active discussion took place during the two-day meeting on how to apply the project's assessment and evaluation



results in urban planning and public policy. A Senior Researcher, Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki, participated in the meeting as a resource person, serving as the rapporteur of the last panel discussion "Recommendations for Future Activities". For more information on the meeting, please contact Dr. Carlos Villacis (Carlos_Villacis@ksg02.harvard.edu), who is the project coordinator, or Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki (tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **TDRM Conference will be held on Dec 2-4, in Kobe, Japan**

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Asian Disaster Reduction Unit (UN OCHA/ADRU), jointly are organizing the International Conference on Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) on 2-4 December in Kobe, Japan.

The conference intends to further promote Total Disaster Risk Management Approach among non-traditional yet critical stakeholders and exponents of disaster reduction. Essentially, it aims to develop among all concerned sectors a strategic understanding of how to integrate TDRM into the national planning process and disaster reduction and response systems of the participating countries.

The first day (2 Dec.) is a public forum which is expected to be broadcasted. For more information, please visit <http://www.adrc.or.jp/>, or email to rep@adrc.or.jp.

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

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