



# ADRC Highlights

Vol.85

*Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News*

January 1 & 16, 2004



## Greetings for the New Year 2004.

We would like to wish a happy new year to our friends and sincerely hope that the impact of disasters this year will be less than the last. ADRC is going to hold our 6th annual meeting from 4-5 of February at Siem Reap, Cambodia. We would like to express our appreciation for all the support extended to us since our establishment in July 1998, which has enabled us to mark this important event for disaster reduction in Asia. The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on ISDR last December which decided to hold the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005 here in Hyogo. ADRC intends to provide positive inputs towards this conference. Thank you.



### ➤ Recent Natural Disasters in Asia: □ Earthquake in Iran

On 26 December 2003, at 01:57 hrs GMT (05:27 hrs local time), an earthquake struck the city of Bam, Kerman Province in southeastern Iran. According to the USGS, its magnitude is estimated at 6.6 on the Richer scale and its depth at 10 km. The earthquake devastated the city of Bam with 80,000 populations and severely damaged surrounding villages. The revised figures number of UN OCHA Reliefweb Situation Report (as of Jan 6, 2004) indicates death 30,000, injured 30,000, and homeless 45,000, as well as approximately 25,000 buildings destroyed (85%) out of 29,500, including houses and public facilities in Bam and surrounding villages. For more information, please go to the ADRC website at [www.adrc.or.jp](http://www.adrc.or.jp).

### ➤ The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to host World Conference on Disaster Reduction

On 23 December 2003, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution deciding the convening of

World Conference on Disaster Reduction, to be organized by UN/ISDR and hosted by the Government of Japan at Kobe, Hyogo from 18 to 22 January 2005.

The objectives of the conference are to conclude the review of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action; to identify specific activities aimed at ensuring implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management; to share best practices and lessons learned to tackle natural disasters within the context of attaining sustainable development; to increase awareness of the importance of disaster reduction policies, thereby facilitating and promoting the implementation of those politics.

Further information about the World Conference on Disaster Reduction is available at <http://www.unisdr.org/>

### ➤ ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) was held in Brunei

The First Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) was held from 9 to 10 December 2003 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The meeting was attended by delegates

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from all ASEAN member countries. ACDM Website (<http://www.acdm.net/>) was launched as one of the Priority Projects.

ADRC Senior Researcher, Mr. Yoshimura participated in the meeting and presented "Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) Approach". Mr. Yoshimura also informed that "the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005" will be held in Hyogo from 18 to 22 January 2005. For more information on the meeting, please go to <http://www.acdm.net>.

### ➤ Visitors to ADRC

#### □ The Delegation of Ministry of Civil Affairs, China

On November 28, the delegation from the Ministry of Civil Affairs, China, paid a visit to ADRC as a part of its study tour on disaster management. Headed by Dr. Zhenyao Wang, Director-General of Department of Disaster and Social Relief at the ministry, the delegation consisting of 7 participants visited the Cabinet Office and the Japan Meteorological Agency at Tokyo, and came to Kobe where ADRC, UN/OCHA Kobe and DRI are located.



Executive Director of ADRC, Mr. Nishikawa provided a presentation about ADRC activities, and had an exchange of views on disaster management subsequently. Dr. Wang emphasized the importance of cooperation between the Ministry of Civil Affairs and ADRC and showed expressed his intention to further strengthen its relationship.

### ➤ ADRC Participated the Third East Asia Cluster Meeting in Kobe

ADRC participated in the Third East Asia Cluster Meeting in Kobe from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October, organized by EMI (Earthquake and Megacities Initiative) and Kobe University in cooperation with City of Kobe.

EMI is an international NGO dedicated to the earthquake disaster reduction of urban areas. It conducts "Cluster Cities Project" aiming at creating a network of large metropolises at risk of big earthquakes. The

network is organized in regional groups called "Clusters" and there are Americas Cluster, Euro-Mediterranean Cluster, Oceania Cluster and East Asia Cluster which consists of 4 cities; Kobe, Manila, Shanghai, and Seoul.

In the Third East Asia Cluster Meeting, besides 4 cities above, several regional inter-governmental organizations were invited and Mr. Yoshinaga, Administrative Manager of ADRC and Ms. Nakamura, Researcher, introduced ADRC's activities including an example of Tsunami Evacuation Plan as a practical tool for risk communication at community levels.

### ➤ SMiRT Conference held in Prague, Czech Republic

On August 17-22, 2003, about 400 participants from Europe, America, China, Korea and Japan met in Prague, Czech Republic for the 17<sup>th</sup> SMiRT Conference to present and discuss cutting-edge study results on earthquake hazards and reliability design.

ADRC sent Dr. Kurita and Dr. Yashiro, Senior Researchers of ADRC, to the meeting. Dr. Kurita reported on "Effect of Irregular Topography on Strong Ground Motion Amplification" and introduced a research result based on actual observation and numerical simulation regarding how ground motion will amplify and propagate in the hill-shaped topographic feature. In the following, Dr. Yashiro made a presentation on "Development of Seismic Hazard Curves for the Portfolio of Facilities", which proposed a calculating method for a probabilistic seismic hazard curve (PSHC) of secondary facilities in view of correlation with the PSHC of primary facility, and examined the location of secondary facilities from the systematic viewpoint. For further information, please contact Dr. Kurita ([kurita@adrc.or.jp](mailto:kurita@adrc.or.jp)).

### ➤ Notice: Change of ADRC Website

Due to the technological enhancement of ADRC website on October 2003, some users may have difficulties to access the website. In such a case, please be advised to access ([www.adrc.or.jp](http://www.adrc.or.jp)) once again, and then bookmark and/or link to your PC. We are sorry for the inconvenience caused.

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