



# ADRC Highlights

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### ➤ ADRC collaboration with Pacific Disaster Center

Satoru Nishikawa, Executive Director of ADRC was invited to serve on the Pacific Disaster Center External Committee which held its first meeting on 24-25 November 2003 in Maui, Hawaii where it is based. The External Committee discussed the PDCs role in the Asia Pacific Region and Operational Support Directions of PDC.



Mr. Nishikawa provided inputs focusing on the comparative advantage PDC has in the region and also information on the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005.

On 19 January 2004, Dr. Allen Clark, the interim executive director and Mr. Stan Goosby visited ADRC to discuss a possible joint study on Tsunami disaster reduction in the Pacific. Dr. Yujiro Ogawa, our former executive director and Dr. Hatori, senior researcher joined in the discussions.

### ➤ Efforts towards Strengthening Emergency Response Capacity in India

□ Contributed Article by ADRC former VR Mr. Pasrija

The Bhuj earthquake occurred in January 2001 brought out inadequacies in the emergency response system of the country. Search and rescue teams had not been trained professionally; specialized dog squad to look for live bodies under the debris were not available; and there was no centralized resource inventory for emergency response. Although the army played a pivotal role in search and rescue, the need for fully specialized trained personnel was felt acutely. The response itself was fairly well organized, but if issues above were taken care of in advance, the response would have been even more professional and rapid which may have reduced the loss of lives.

The Government of India are now in the process of training and equipping 96 specialist search and rescue teams with consisting of 45 personnel per each team, including doctors, paramedics and structural engineers. Ten teams have already been trained. These teams will be located at various regional centers around the country for specialized response, and will possess the latest equipment like dog squads for searching survivors in the debris.

Besides specialists of search & rescue units, it has been decided that personnel of Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs) should also be imparted basic training so that they can be requisitioned to the site of incident without loss of time. Pending arrival of the specialist teams, the battalions located near the site of incident would be deployed immediately. For this purpose, a curriculum has been drawn up and integrated into the training curriculum of CPMFs.



The States are primarily responsible for emergency response during crisis, and have been advised to set up their own specialist teams for responding to disasters. Assistance will be provided to the State Governments for educating their trainers at the national institutes. The State Governments have also been authorized to utilize 10% of the annual budget made under the Calamity Relief Fund for equipment purchase.

This report was contributed by Mr. Pasrija, Government official of India, as one of the activities proposed under ADRC Visiting Researcher Network (AVRN). At the 6th ADRC International Meeting in Cambodia, it has been approved to set up an AVRN.

### ➤ ADRC joined the Seminar hosted by JBIC

"The Seminar for Promoting Public Participation in ODA Operation FY2003" was held from 14 to 21 January 2004 by Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) that provides financial assistance to developing countries in the form of ODA loans. The seminar aimed at mobilizing Japanese human resources, technologies, and knowledge to make ODA loans more effectively and efficiently. The 21 participants including an ADRC researcher Ms. Kodama, which are the representatives from local governments, NGOs, private companies and institutions based in Japan, joined the seminar. They observed 5 projects conducted in Luzon, Negros, and Cebu islands, and had discussions with the local residents as beneficiaries.

One of the projects was the "Pinatubo Hazard Urgent Mitigation Project". It was proposed the promotion of information sharing for the effective reconstruction of the regions between the province of Pampanga in Philippines and city of Shimabara in Japan both of where suffered serious damage by the eruption of volcanoes in 1991. ADRC would like to facilitate their cooperation efforts. For more information, please ask Kodama ([kodama@adrc.or.jp](mailto:kodama@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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