



ADRC Highlights

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March 16, 2004

➤ **ADRC was invited to Workshop
Co-organized by Iran and UNDP**

A technical workshop titled "Rebuilding Bam: learning from past reconstruction Programmes" was held in Tehran, Iran from 25th to 26th February, 2004. This workshop was co-organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development of Iran, and the United Nations Development Programme. Selected experts of India, Japan, Turkey and Iran attended the workshop.

On 26 December 2003, an earthquake of magnitude 6.5 on the Richter scale struck the city of Bam, Iran and its surrounding area. The earthquake killed more than 30,000 people and severely damaged and destroyed about 85 % of the houses, commercial units, health facilities and administrative buildings. As the reconstruction program begins, several complex issues are likely to emerge. The technical workshop was held to learn lessons from other countries, which have experienced recent major earthquake disasters, with a view to generate inputs for the design of the post-earthquake recovery strategies and programs for Bam and to foster learning both ways. ADRC was invited to send a technical expert by the organizers to present its experience in the 1995 Kobe earthquake. Experts from Hyogo prefectural government, Kobe municipality and Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution also participated.



Dr. Kurita, ADRC Senior Researcher, demonstrated the Japan's experience under the theme of "Advancement of Design Standards for Infrastructures after the Kobe Earthquake" at session of "Rebuilding critical infrastructure and promoting higher standards of safety". At Working Session, the lively discussion was held and opinions concerning reconstruction were exchanged. For more information, please contact Dr. Kurita at kurita@adrc.or.jp.

➤ **ADRC Participated in the Third International
Workshop of WSSI in Bangkok**

The Third International Workshop of WSSI on "Seismic Risk Management for Countries of the Asia Pacific Region" was held in Bangkok from 7th to 8th December 2003, organized by WSSI (World Seismic Safety Initiative). WSSI is an undertaking of the International Association of Earthquake Engineering (IAEE) and was established in 1992 to promote the

spirit and goals of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) and to act as a catalyst in helping nations improve their earthquake risk management strategies.

During the ten years since its establishment, WSSI has worked with many countries in the world, in particular, with countries in the Asia Pacific Region. The purpose of this workshop was to learn from countries where they have worked to identify what works and what doesn't, and to reflect it in the future activity plan of WSSI.

Among others, participants from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, the Philippines, Uganda, and Vietnam made a presentation about their activities in earthquake disaster risk reduction with support by WSSI. From Japan, JICA, OYO International, Pacific Consultants International and Nippon Koei participated in the workshop and reported on their activities to reduce earthquake risk in some developing countries. For more information on the workshop, please contact Ms. Tsunozaki (tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp) or Mr. Ishii (ishii@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **Public Forum " Catastrophic Floods :
Hidden Vulnerability of Mega Cities" will be
held on March 23**

March 22nd commemorates the World Water Day, so does Mar 23rd the World Meteorological Day. Co-organizing with United Nations University (UNU), Cabinet Office of Japan, and UN ISDR Secretariat, ADRC is going to hold a public forum titled "Catastrophic Floods : Hidden Vulnerability of Mega Cities" at UNU, Tokyo, Japan from 14:00-17:30, March 23 (Tue), 2004.

In cooperation with NHK, the forum will address the important issue of how to shift a 'fail-safe' approach to 'safe-fail' mechanisms in flood control. Prominent researchers will address the relevant issues including "Historical lessons", "Climate dimension", "Urbanization and catchment changes" and "Community participation".

Admission is free and everyone is welcome to participate. Speakers are Prof. Masaru Morita, Shibaura Institute of Technology, Mr. Koji Yamamoto, Former Director-General, Japan Meteorological Agency, and Prof. Keiichi Toda, Kyoto University, as well as Ms. Lorna P. Victoria, Director of Center for Disaster Preparedness Foundation, Inc, Philippines. Japanese-English simultaneous translation will be provided. To register, please email your name, address and phone/fax number to fldforum@hq.unu.edu by March 19th.



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

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