



ADRC Highlights

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➤ ADRC Dispatched Research Team to Bangladesh

From 9-23 April, 2004, ADRC Senior Researchers Dr. Kurita and Mr. Teranishi were invited by the JICA to participate in a research mission in Bangladesh. The mission objectives were: (1) to survey the current situation of seismic observation system in Bangladesh, (2) to review the roles of earthquake disaster-related government officers and organizations, and (3) to identify outstanding issues concerning the earthquake disaster management system of Bangladesh, as well as (4) to make recommendations on formulation of earthquake disaster reduction policies. During the period, the mission visited the government ministries, city corporations, universities and NGOs in Dhaka and Chittagong.



As a result, the mission identified several issues which are categorized into institutional issues, urban planning issues, and preparedness issues. As for (1) institutional issues, there are a) Absence of earthquake disaster reduction master-plan based on seismic risk analysis, b) Building code without legal basis, and c) Lack of countermeasures against a great number of existing vulnerable buildings. (2) Issues in Urban Planning include a) No integration of earthquake disaster prevention/mitigation perspective into city planning, b) Insufficiency of the number of open spaces for evacuation and temporary houses, and c) Difficulties in redeveloping the central town in Dhaka, which is the most vulnerable to earthquakes in Bangladesh; (3) Issues in Preparedness are a) Absence of community-based disaster management organizations in urban area, and b) Lack of preparedness for earthquake disaster response (e.g. storage facility of emergency relief items such as food and rescue equipments).

Subsequently, a seminar co-organized by Bangladesh Meteorological Department and JICA was held in Dhaka. Minister of Disaster Management & Relief, and Ambassador of Japan made keynote addresses at the beginning of the seminar. Followed by presentations entitled "Japan's Countermeasure for Earthquake: Lessons learned from Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake" and "Japan's Earthquake Disaster Management System", Dr. Kurita reported the observations regarding the Bangladesh's Earthquake Disaster Management System, and recommended Bangladesh government to develop the integrated earthquake disaster management system consisting of risk identification, countermeasures, capacity building and public awareness as critical factors. For more

information, please contact Dr. Kurita (kurita@adrc.or.jp) or Mr. Teranishi (teranishi@adrc.or.jp).

➤ ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report □ Mr. Nguyen Thanh Phuong from Viet Nam

Since 1997, I have been working for the Department of Dike Management and Flood & Storm Control, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam (MARD). The MARD is in charge of organizing Central Committee of Flood and Storm Control and Central Committee of Forest Fire Prevention. Among my responsibilities are to conduct assessment of damages caused by natural disasters and to propose resolutions. I have been engaged in controlling Hoa Binh reservoir for flood prevention in northern delta area.



I have been working at ADRC as a visiting researcher since January 2004. I have acquired disaster management related knowledge and experience which is also applicable to Vietnam. Having discussed and exchanged ideas with other ADRC staff, I hope I can make contribution to development process of my country as well as to the relationship between MARD and ADRC.

➤ GLIDE Technical Meeting was held at Geneva on 3 May, 2004

The Technical Meeting on GLIDE (GLObal unique disaster IDENTifier number) was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 3 May 2004. In the meeting, UN organizations including WMO, UNDP, OCHA agreed to participate in the automatic GLIDE generator, and the system started on May 4.

Jointly developed by ADRC and ReliefWeb with support from LaRED, glidenumbers.net has been making disaster information search more convenient and accessible as a powerful tool to promote a globally common code.

It was also agreed that ADRC and ReliefWeb should maintain the lead in the maintenance of glidenumbers.net with ADRC playing the administrator role. For more information, please refer to <http://www.glidenumbers.net>, or ask Mr. Arakida (arakida@adrc.or.jp).

➤ Announcement

Asian Seismological Commission (ASC) symposium will be held in Yerevan, Armenia in October 18-21, 2004. A session on "Public Awareness, Education and Training, Social Aspects of Strong Earthquake" will also be organized. For details, please go to http://asc1996.netfirms.com/asc_2004.htm.

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

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