



ADRC

Highlights

Vol.97

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

July 16, 2004

➤ **ADRC has a New Executive Director**

ADRC Chairman Dr. Itoh has appointed Mr. Masayuki Kitamoto as the new Executive Director of ADRC. Mr. Kitamoto has held various positions in the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan, has been a staff member of UN-HABITAT in Nairobi, and was in charge of the UN World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in Yokohama in 1994 in the Japanese Gov't.

Mr. Satoru Nishikawa was requested by the Japanese Gov't to assume the post of the Director for Disaster Preparedness & International Cooperation for Disaster Reduction in the Cabinet Office of Japan. Mr. Nishikawa will be directly involved in the WCDR in January 2005 and also provide advice to ADRC.

➤ **ADRC Presents GLIDE at GDIN2004**

GDIN(Global Disaster Information Network)'s sixth annual conference was held at Washington DC 26-29 March with the participation from 57 countries. The conference was inaugurated at the Department of State followed by sessions held in Alexandria Virginia.

On 27 March, ADRC Executive Director Satoru Nishikawa made a presentation titled "GLIDE(GLocal unique disaster IDentifier): Universal tool for disaster data sharing" where he described the concept and anatomy of GLIDE and also the new automatic GLIDE generator which will enable more partners



to share this tool. This presentation was well accepted by the meeting and in the report of GDIN2004, it was stated "GDIN endorses GLIDE and will use the system in appropriate activities". On 28 March a session on Education and Training was organized by UNESCO focusing on the elements for launching the international initiative on education for disaster reduction, where the General Insurance Association of Japan made a presentation on its new program for elementary school children's community risk awareness. For further details on GDIN please refer to <http://www.gdin.org/>

➤ **Disaster Management System in Nepal**

□ **Contributed Article by ADRC former VR Mr. Lekh Nath Pokharel**

Nepal is a small and land locked country in South Asia. All varieties of climate and topography can be found ranging from the sub-tropical to the alpine. There are 75 administrative districts in the country and in the

grassroots level; there are 3,912 Village Development Committees and 58 Municipalities.

Nepal is a disaster prone country. Rugged and fragile geophysical structure, very high relief, high angle of slopes, complex geology, variable climatic conditions, active tectonic processes, unplanned settlement, dense and increasing population, poor economic condition and low literacy rate have made Nepal vulnerable to various types of natural disasters. The most frequent natural disasters are flood, landslide, earthquake, thunderbolt, windstorms and glacier lake flood outburst. It is a great challenge to protect infrastructure and property from frequent disasters.



The Ministry of Home Affairs has been working as the apex body in relation to disaster management in Nepal. The vital functions of the Ministry include formulation of national policies and their implementation, preparedness and mitigation of disaster, immediate rescue and relief works, data collection and dissemination, collection and distribution of funds and resources. In each administrative district, there is the Chief District Officer who acts as the crisis manager at the time of disasters.

Regional cooperation among Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Pakistan are also necessary. This is because single disaster like heavy rain in Nepal affects the other countries. One of the countermeasures is to establish a regional information center and active networking system to share the information. Nepal always stands for the international cooperation and advocates for the establishment of such facilities.

This report was contributed by Mr. Lekh Nath Pokharel, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal, as one of the activities proposed under ADRC Visiting Researcher Network (AVRN).

➤ **ADRC will hold Public Forum " Recovery from Catastrophic Disasters " on August 24**

ADRC is going to hold a public forum titled "Recovery from Catastrophic Disasters: towards a safer world for all" at UNU, Tokyo, Japan from 14:00-17:30, August 24(Tue), 2004, co-organizing with Cabinet Office of Japan, and UN ISDR Secretariat, UNU, and UNDP..

In cooperation with USAID, NHK, Hyogo prefectural government, the forum will address and propose how we could reduce disaster risk through experiences of Iran, USA and Japan. Participation to this forum will be self-supporting. Japanese-English simultaneous translation will be provided. For registration, please email your name, address and phone/fax number to recoveryforum@adrc.or.jp by August 17.



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

Published by : [Asian Disaster Reduction Center \(ADRC\)](http://www.adrc.or.jp/)
5th Floor, Hitomiraikan 1-5-2, Wakinohamakaigan-dori, Chuo-ku, KOBE,
651-0073, JAPAN E-mail: editor@adrc.or.jp Phone:+81-78-262-5540