



# ADRC Highlights Vol.100

*Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News*

September 1, 2004

➤ **Public Forum "Recovery from Catastrophic Disasters" held at UNU, Tokyo on August 24**

On the occasion of the Disaster Prevention Day, September 1, and the Disaster Prevention Week, August 30 - September 5, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) co-organized a Public Forum titled "Recovery from Catastrophic Disasters - towards a safer world for all" with Cabinet Office of Japan, the United Nations University (UNU), and UN ISDR Secretariat and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at UNU, Tokyo, Japan on August 24, 2004. In cooperation with USAID, NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) and Hyogo Prefectural Government, the forum collected over 250 participants. The organizers had the honor of the presence of H.L.H. the Crown Prince of Japan.

Objectives of the forum were to address how to enhance the understanding among the public to further strengthen disaster reduction capacities in the world as well as in Japan and to further promote international cooperation in disaster reduction.



The forum started with the keynote speech of Ms. Helena Molin Valdes, Deputy Director, ISDR Secretariat, titled "World Conference on Disaster Reduction-A new milestone event for reducing disasters." It was followed by four speakers' presentations; 1) "Disaster Recovery: Faster, Better, or Safer?" by Dr. Patricia Bolton, Senior Research Scientist, Battelle Seattle Research Center, USA, 2) "Challenge of Bam Earthquake - road map for safer communities" by Mr. Kamal Kishore, Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor for South and Southwest Asia, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), UNDP, 3) "Recovery and Reconstruction towards Disaster Resilient Communities - from Lessons Learnt in Japan -" by Mr. Tadashi Harada, Deputy Director General for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, Japan, and 4) "Sustainable Post-Disaster Recovery - Turning Disasters into Opportunities for Development" by Mr. Andrew Maskrey, Chief, Disaster Reduction Unit, BCPR, UNDP.



Consecutively, a panel discussion with those five experts was held. In conclusion, the coordinator of the panel discussion, Prof. Kishie Shigekawa, Fuji-Tokoha University, Japan, pointed out that development of a mechanism for sharing lessons and experiences of disasters, especially in the

phase of recovery and reconstruction, should be pursued with the aim of making safe communities and effective disaster risk management.

For more information, please contact Senior Researcher Ms. Tsunozaki at [tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp](mailto:tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **11<sup>th</sup> TIEMS Conference held in Melbourne, Australia on 18-21 May 2004**

With the support of Emergency Management Australia (EMA), ADRC's counterpart in Australia, the International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS) organized the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Melbourne, Australia from 18 to 21 May 2004. Commonwealth of Australia and state emergency management officers participated in the conference and delivered the presentations, most of which highlighted the importance of disaster impacts in the developing nations and how to mainstream the disaster reduction aspect into the development program.



As a representative of ADRC, Researcher Dr. SriGowri Sanker was invited to deliver presentation in the plenary session: "Emergency Risk Management, Cultural and Geographical differences". Dr.Sanker pointed out the issues of human development, aging population issues, developing economies and disaster impacts. Further gender related issues were also highlighted. Having stressed the major vulnerabilities, which create disasters when they confront with natural hazards, he also suggested the comprehensive solutions based on the objective of ADRC's TDRM approach under the perspective of mainstreaming the disaster reduction as a tool for new development paradigm. Finally following proposals such as "mainstreaming disaster reduction into national and local level planning and investment for disaster reduction are must", "development of culture of prevention and risk perception gap among communities", "simultaneous development of disaster reduction framework and establishing linkages to the UN-MDGs" and "investment for disaster reduction" were suggested.

The conference was declared close by Mr. David Templeman, Director General of EMA who also highlighted the major issues discussed in the conference for last four days and specified that EMA will participate in the UN WCDR to be held in Kobe with the voice of Australasia and Pacific island countries. He also highlighted the role of ADRC in the forthcoming conference in Kobe.

For more information, please contact Dr. Sanker ([sanker@adrc.or.jp](mailto:sanker@adrc.or.jp)) or visit [www.tiems.org](http://www.tiems.org).

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

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