



ADRC Highlights

Vol.101

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

September 16, 2004

➤ **ADRC New Visiting Researcher's Report**
□ **Ms. Bouasy Thammasack from Laos**

I have been working as a project coordinator of community-based disaster management, for National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Social Welfare Department, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. (Lao PDR).

Since July 2004, I have been here in Japan as an ADRC Visiting Researcher for 6 months. ADRC has provided me with such a unique opportunity to learn disaster management in Japan. Having been back to my office, I'd like to be engaged in disaster management in Lao PDR.



Lao PDR is classified as one of the least developed countries in the world. Among the main causes are land problems, natural disasters, pests, environmental degradation, and lack of water for potential agricultural production as well as UXO (unexploded ordnance) contamination.

Because Lao PDR is located in the lower Mekong basin, the country experiences floods from May to September when the amount of water increases in the upper Mekong. Floods in 2001 brought damage to agricultural 42,223 hectares, while those in 2002 caused 43,064 hectares.

To deal with natural disasters, the Government, in August 1999, established National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) as an inter-ministerial policy making and coordination body over 13 ministries. As the secretariat of the NDMC, the NDMO promotes cooperation among Lao's disaster management organizations, other government agencies and UN as well as International NGOs.

Main programs and projects carried out by NDMO are Capacity Building Program for people in affected and vulnerable areas, Public Awareness and Education Program through the media, and Early Warning Information Program.

Representing Government of Lao, the NDMO is also promoting its relationship with ADRC, World Food Programme (WFP), Care International Laos, and Concern Worldwide Laos.

➤ **ADRC Cooperated Training Course on Flood Hazard Mapping in Viet Nam**

From June 28 to July 8, 2004, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) was invited to participate in a series of "Training Course on Flood Hazard Mapping" which was co-organized by UNDP/DMU (Disaster Management Unit) and OCHA Kobe.

Financially supported by USAID, the training programs were held at Qui Nhon City in Binh Dinh Province and Hoi An Town in Quang Nam Province, Central part of Viet Nam.

Dr. Yujiro Ogawa, Professor of Fuji-Tokoha University (also a former Executive Director of ADRC), and Dr. Tomohiko Hatori, Senior Researcher of ADRC were invited as lecturers.

Conducted by the PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) method, the training course included TOT (Training of Trainer). Therefore, the course covered both methods/theories and exercises. A participant of the course held earlier this year played a role of one of lecturers in this course.

Covering the affected area of disastrous flood in 1999, UNDP/DMU plans to chart a new hazard map at commune, district and then province levels. Once the process to accumulate information from commune, district and province level properly, it will be recognized as one of the best practices of flood hazard mapping production cycle. For more information, please ask Dr. Hatori at hatori@adrc.or.jp.



➤ **Recent Natural Disasters in Asia:**
Floods in China

From 3 to 5 September, 2004, a heavy storm hit the northeast region of the Sichuan Province in China. The Chongqing Municipality has been also seriously affected. The heavy rainfall has caused the rise of water level in the rivers and inundation of a number of cities and towns. Landslides and flashfloods have also been registered in some areas.

The data on casualty counts 79 dead in Sichuan, and 34 dead in Chongqing. For more info, please visit www.adrc.or.jp. (September 8, 2004, OCHA Report)

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/)
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