



ADRC Highlights

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Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

October 1, 2004

➤ **National Workshop on Disaster Risk Management was held in Tajikistan**

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), upon request from the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence (MoES) of the Republic of Tajikistan, organized a workshop entitled "National Workshop on Disaster Risk Management" under the framework of ADRC's joint cooperative programme with its member countries, developed to strengthen the capacity of members in disaster reduction. The Workshop was held at Dushanbe Hotel in Dushanbe, Tajikistan from 2 to 6 August 2004, co-organized by MoES, ADRC and the United Nations Disaster Risk Management Project in Tajikistan, in cooperation with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the United Nations Development Programme/Bureau for Crisis, Prevention and Recovery and the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. It was conducted in Russian and English, with simultaneous interpretation.



The ultimate goal of the Workshop was to contribute to sustainable development through promoting a holistic, comprehensive and integrated approach to disaster risk reduction, specifically, the Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) approach, with recognition that, in order to achieve the goal, the country needs to: 1) strengthen multi-level, multi-sectional and inter-disciplinary cooperation and collaboration in disaster risk reduction, and 2) integrate disaster risk reduction into national development planning, policies and implementations.

The Workshop brought together more than 40 participants from MoES, other ministries involved in disaster management, scientific community and NGOs as well as international organizations working in Tajikistan, all of whom actively participated. It was significant in a sense that various actors of the society in disaster risk management were present.

From Japan, Prof. Takuji Hamamoto, an expert of earthquake engineering, Musashi Institute of Technology, as well as two senior researchers of ADRC, Dr. Tomohiko Hatori and Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki, participated in the Workshop as resource persons. Prof. Hamamoto, with assistance from Dr. Hatori, conducted a sub-group meeting on "Seismic Disaster Prevention for Sustainable Urban Development in Tajikistan" on the last day to further

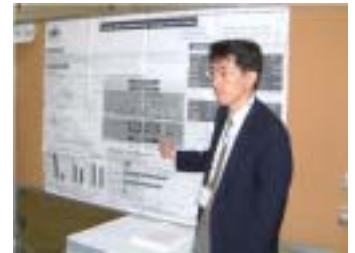
discuss what measures should be taken in Tajikistan to prevent earthquake disasters effectively.

The Workshop allowed the participants to visit Gissar to see the site where a tragic earthquake took place in 1989 and Varzob where recent floods and landslides contaminated drinking water of Dushanbe.

A report is currently being prepared by MoES and ADRC. For more information on the Workshop, please contact Dr. Hatori (hatori@adrc.or.jp) or Ms. Tsunozaki (tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **13th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering held in Vancouver, Canada**

From August 1 to 6, 2004, the 13th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering was held in Vancouver, Canada. It is the largest conference in the world regarding the earthquake engineering and is held once every four years. In this conference, several thousands papers regarding all kinds of the earthquake engineering were presented. In each session, participants had intense discussions about cutting edge studies.



Dr. Kurita, ADRC Senior Researcher, participated in the conference and reported at the session of "Social and Economic Issues". The title of presented paper was "Seismic Risk Estimation for Principal Cities in Turkey". Authors estimated the seismic risks for principal cities (Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir) in Turkey. The study concluded that expected damage to Istanbul affects the Turkish economy and finance seriously, and retrofitting of building is effective to reduce the casualties and the economic losses. In addition, the necessity for development of low cost retrofitting technique was emphasized. For more information, please contact Dr. Kurita at kurita@adrc.or.jp.

➤ **Announcement**

□ **International art contest for young people aged 16 and under**

The Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) is launching an international art contest for young people aged 16 and under, in the lead up to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction to be held on 18-22 January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo (Japan). The best 12 pictures will be selected for publication in a 2005 calendar. For more information, please visit www.unisdr.org.

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

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