



ADRC Highlights

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Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

December 1, 2004

➤ **International Symposium "Living with Risk – disaster reduction for future generations –" to be held on 17 January 2005 in Kobe**

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) will hold an international symposium titled "Living with Risk –disaster reduction for future generations–" at Kobe Portopia Hall (in Kobe Portopia Hotel) on 17 January 2005 (15:30-17:30), co-organized by the Cabinet Office (Government of Japan), UN/ISDR, Hyogo Prefecture, and UN/OCHA Kobe, in cooperation with JICA, NHK, IFRC, and WMO. The symposium has a special significance because it coincides with the day of the tenth anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the day before the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR).

The Symposium aims to provide an opportunity to enhance the understanding of the importance of disaster risk reduction and of the need to further strengthen capacities by promoting cooperation and collaboration among various stakeholders, such as local and central governments, UN agencies, international organizations, academia, NGOs, and, ultimately, communities.

Keynote Speech:

H.E. Mr. Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, MP,
Minister for Food and Disaster Management
of Bangladesh

Ms. Sadako Ogata, President of JICA

Panel Discussion:

Mr. Katsuji Ebisawa, President of NHK
Mr. Jan Egeland, UN Under-Secretary-General for
Humanitarian Affairs and
Emergency Relief Coordinator

Mr. Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of WMO
Mr. Markku Niskala, Secretary-General of IFRC

Commentator:

Prof. Shigeru Itoh, Chairman of ADRC

Moderator:

Mr. Lyuji Miyamoto, Executive Broadcaster of NHK

➤ **Status of Recovery Following the Bam Earthquake in Iran**

ADRC co-organized a workshop entitled "Exchange of Experience for a Safer Life and Decrease of Vulnerability against Earthquake" on 26-28 September 2004 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, in cooperation with Kobe University (Japan), MPO (Management and Planning Organization) of Iranian Government, and PWIT (Power and Water Institute of Technology, Iran).

The workshop was convened in the conference center of IRIB (Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting), gathering more than 500 participants including



renowned experts from inside and outside Iran. Participants from Japan comprised officers from the central government (Japan Meteorological Agency and Building Research Institute), local government and agencies (Hyogo Prefectural Government, Hyogo Emergency Medical Center, Waterworks Bureau of Kobe City, Amagasaki Municipal Fire Department), and representatives from the private sector (TV, telecommunications and gas companies).

Mr. Masayuki Kitamoto, Executive Director of ADRC, delivered a keynote speech on "Earthquake Emergency Response System & Total Disaster Risk Management". Various presentations by the Japanese experts followed to introduce the past experiences and lessons learnt from the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and disaster management in Japan.

A survey mission to Bam, where the devastating earthquake occurred on 26 December last year, was organized, following the workshop. Mr. Ishii, Senior Researcher of ADRC, observed many collapsed buildings and heaps of rubbles in the city and that further work was needed for its recovery and reconstruction. For more information, please ask Mr. Ishii (ishii@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **Recent Natural Disasters in Asia:**
□ **Floods in the Philippines**

The monsoon rains brought by Tropical Depression "Winnie" in late November, triggered massive flooding in the low-lying areas of the northern and central part of the Philippines. The floods caused 407 persons dead, 258,000 injured.(December 1, 2004, OCHA Report). For more info, visit www.adrc.or.jp. (GLIDE: SS-2004-000139-PHL)

Admission is free. Japanese-English simultaneous translation will be provided. For registration, please email or fax your name, address and phone/fax number to the Secretariat (e-mail: symposium@adrc.or.jp or fax: +81-78-262-5546.) by 10 January 2005. Please note that your participation to this Symposium will be self-supporting.

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

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