



# ADRC Highlights

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➤ **UNESCO International Meeting for Tsunami was held in Paris on 3-8 March, 2005**

The International Coordination Meeting for the Development of a Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for the Indian Ocean within a global framework was held at the UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, on 3-8 March 2005, gathering 300 participants.

The meeting started with an opening address by Mr. Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, and followed by presentations. An ADRC Senior Researcher, Mr. Teranishi, made a presentation titling "Awareness building and public information". He introduced the tsunami awareness project in Papua New Guinea, tsunami seminars for affected countries, and interview survey in Sri Lanka,

In the latter part of the meeting, groups were established to prepare draft plans. The outcomes are; (1) Draft work plan and timetable for the Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for the Indian Ocean, (2) Draft Design Plan for tsunami warning systems including global, regional and national levels, and (3) Indian Ocean Member States fully informed at technical level on tsunami warning and mitigation programme. A Communique and the Terms of Reference were adopted. Next meeting was agreed to be held in Mauritius on 14-16 April 2005. For more information, please visit <http://ioc.unesco.org>.

➤ **ADRC Visiting Researcher's Report**  
□ **Mr. B.B. Malla from Nepal**

Since Nepal is a landlocked mountainous country with plain area in the south, floods and landslides occur frequently during monsoon season. Lack of resources, consciousness and manpower has made the disaster situation aggravating. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) has been striving for its best to pre and post disaster activities mandated by the Natural Disaster Relief Act (NDRA), 1982. I had been working for the ministry, and currently belong to District Disaster Relief Committee, Rukum, as its Chairman.



In Nepal, there are various kinds of natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, fires, epidemics, cold and hot waves. Besides these natural disasters, the NDRA encompasses industrial, explosive and poisonous matter accidents, too.

To cope with these possible disasters, Nepal has included Disaster Management aspect in its National

Plan. In addition, NDRA, National Action Plan, River Control Policy, Watershed Development Policy has also been put into practice. Immediate tasks which I consider necessary are formulation of appropriate land conservation policy, advanced weather forecasting technology, and communication system.

I have joined ADRC as a visiting researcher since late January. While my stay by June, I would like to acquire knowledge of Japanese disaster management system and bring it back to my country with permissible modifications. I also intend to add a new dimension to the disaster management in Nepal, focusing on relevant topic of disaster mitigation.

➤ **ADRC Cooperative Project 2004 (Singapore)**  
□ **International Urban Search and Rescue Course**

The Singapore Civil Defense Force (SCDF) has provided training opportunities for overseas experts to learn tactics and techniques used in urban search and rescue (USAR) situations since 2000. ADRC has cooperated with SCDF in inviting several participants from ADRC's member countries to join the course for four years since 2001. This year's course was held from 21 February to 4 March, 2005. ADRC supported for the participation of four experts from Armenia, China, Nepal, and the Philippines.

The training course has been conducted in a wide range of training facilities of the Civil Defence Academy (CDA) established in 1999, one of the highest level facilities in Asia. The training course included not only lectures to learn the concepts and principles for managing and handling rescue operations in USAR settings, but also physical exercises to acquire the special skills and techniques, such as shoring methods, debris tunneling, search procedures with breathing apparatus, and collapsed building rescue. The participants highly evaluated the experience to acquire actual techniques of search and rescue which would be of great help for their future disaster management work.



The frequent occurrence of disasters, including the Indian Ocean Tsunami underscored the need to for improving the capability of the search and rescue experts. ADRC would like to continue to support for fostering of the experts in its member countries in the process of rapid urbanization. For more information, please contact Ms. Kodama ([kodama@adrc.or.jp](mailto:kodama@adrc.or.jp)).

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

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