



ADRC Highlights

Vol.113

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

1 April 2005

➤ Survey Mission to Tsunami-Affected Areas in India

Three months has passed since the unprecedented tsunami destructed the coastline of the countries in the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004. India lost thousands of people's lives and suffered extensive damage to livelihood and economy in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, and the Union Territory (UT) of Pondicherry. The number of casualty exceeded 10,000, and more than 5,000 people are still missing. From 2 to 4 March 2005, Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki, Senior Researcher, visited the tsunami-affected areas in the State of Tamil Nadu and the UT of Pondicherry.



Boats being transported back to the sea (Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu)

Relief effort in response to the tsunami in India was coordinated efficiently by the Ministry of Home Affairs as the nodal agency at the national level; by the Relief Commissioners at the state and UT levels, by the Collectors at the district level. It should be noted that not only the governments carried out relief activities, but also, UN agencies, community members, individuals and local NGOs as well as the private sector responded to the needs of the affected communities. At present, short-term to medium-term recovery and reconstruction activities, such as reconstruction of public facilities, repair of infrastructure, replacement of boats, mental health care and so on, are being carried out, coordinated among all the stakeholders. The challenges are still enormous for all the affected communities to recover entirely, and a long-term recovery plan is currently being developed to that end.



Temporary shelters provided by the Tamil Nadu state government

ADRC would like to take the opportunity to thank the Ministry of Home Affairs, the State Relief Commissioner of Tamil Nadu, the Collector of Cuddalore, the Relief Commissioner of Pondicherry and all others who contributed to make the mission successful. For

more information, please contact Ms. Tsunozaki (tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp).

➤ Mission on Establishing a Tsunami Early Warning Mechanism in the Indian Ocean held

ADRC conducted the "Mission on Policy Dialogue for High Level Administrative Policy Makers on Establishing a Tsunami Early Warning Mechanism in the Indian Ocean" on 22-24 February 2005, organized by UN/ISDR.

The purpose of the Mission was to acquire the necessary knowledge to establish an early warning system for Tsunami and raise public awareness in their countries, through learning the Japanese experience as an example. It also aimed to further promote dialogues among high level officials in the Indian Ocean countries.

Participating countries were Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Thailand. From those countries, 19 high level policy makers with coordinating responsibilities across ministries attended.

Followed by lectures by Cabinet Office, Japan Meteorological Agency, and Fire and Disaster Management Agency, the participants visited various facilities for evacuation from tsunami, in Shizuoka as a case study of local tsunami disaster reduction.

Policy makers deepened their understanding of the development of Japan's tsunami warning system and the benefits of establishing such a system in the Indian Ocean by sharing experience with Pacific Ocean countries, including Japan. For more information, please contact Ms. Nakamura (nakamura@adrc.or.jp).

➤ Recent Natural Disasters in Asia:

□ Earthquake in Indonesia

On 28 March 2005, an earthquake measuring 8.7 on the Richter scale (according to the USGS) struck the west coast of Indonesia's Sumatra Island Monday. More than 500 people were killed on the Nias island. For more info, please visit <http://www.adrc.or.jp>. (GLIDE: EQ-2005-000053-IDN)

➤ Announcement

As of 1 April 2005, Administrative Manager, Mr. Yoshinaga, and Senior Researcher Dr. Hatori have been transferred to Hyogo Prefectural Government and PASCO respectively. Instead, Mr. Nagano and Mr. Murata have assumed their duties as Administrative Manager and Senior Expert of International Cooperation in Recovery, respectively.

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/)
[Hitomirai-kan, 1-5-2-5F, WAKIHAMAKAIGAN-DORI, CHUO-KU, KOBE](http://www.adrc.or.jp/)
651-0073, JAPAN E-mail: editor@adrc.or.jp Phone: +81-78-262-5540