



# ADRC Highlights

Vol.114

*Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News*

16 April 2005

➤ **Public Forum on Recovery to be held on 12 May 2005 in Kobe**

“Public Forum on Recovery- In support to the development of the International Recovery Platform (IRP)-” will be held on 12 May, 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo, co-organized by UNDP, UN/ISDR, UN/OCHA, World Bank (WB), International Labour Organization (ILO), Cabinet Office of Japan, Hyogo Prefectural Government, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC).

The forum is intended to draw the attention of the public to the proposed IRP's efforts. It also contributes to producing an action plan of IRP as output of the seminar.

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: [irpseminar@adrc.or.jp](mailto:irpseminar@adrc.or.jp) or fax: +81-78-262-5546,) by 9 May 2005. Please note that your participation to this seminar will be self-supporting.

(This forum will be held as a part of International Seminar on Recovery on 11-13 May, 2005.)

➤ **32nd session of WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones was held in New Delhi, India, 21-26 February 2005**

The 32nd session of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones was held on 21-26 February 2005 in New Delhi, hosted by the Government of India. It brought together representatives of the Panel member countries, observers, invited experts and representatives of the Secretariat (WMO, UNESCAP and the Technical Support Unit). The session was convened to review the cyclone-related disaster prevention and preparedness activities in the member countries with an aim to reduce the negative impact of cyclones in the region. It had a special significance that, in response to the catastrophic tsunami which severely affected the coastal areas of five out of eight Panel member countries, the participants discussed the urgent need for an effective tsunami warning system which could be an extension and improvement of the existing cyclone warning system.



In the context of the session, a technical conference “Water related disasters with special reference to Storm

Surges and Tsunamis and their Early Warning Systems” was organized on 25 February. A Senior Researcher, Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki, presented the activities of ADRC focusing on community awareness as a crucial factor for disaster reduction. For more information, please contact Ms. Tsunozaki ([tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp](mailto:tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp)).

➤ **JICA Regional Seminar on Tsunami Early Warning System**

Responding to the Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami on 26 December 2004, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), conducted the regional seminar on tsunami early warning system on 6-19 March, 2005.

Participating countries of the seminar were Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Kenya, Tanzania, and Seychelles. The participants included director and senior officials who are engaged in charge of tsunami warning mechanism and disaster reduction activities.

One of the seminar objectives was to share Japanese experiences of tsunami disaster reduction with the participants. Another was to provide the participants with basic knowledge of effective tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean.

The program included lectures on tsunami mechanism and countermeasures, tsunami early warning system, and information transfer system to local authorities and mass media. Those lectures were made by ministries and agencies such as Cabinet Office, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Japan Meteorological Agency, NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation), and Fire and Disaster Management Agency. ADRC also gave a lecture on raising awareness of local residents and good practices of community based disaster management activities in the Asian region.

As for the field trip, the participants visited Wakayama Prefecture where they learned about infrastructural measures against tsunami, such as water gate and dyke. In Hirogawa town, a historical story for tsunami evacuation, “Fire of Rice Sheaves –Ina Mura no Hi-” was introduced. The story tells about a village chief who saved the people from tsunami occurred in the night, by putting a fire on rice sheaves and leading the villagers up hill.

Throughout the seminar, the importance of the domestic information transmission system and raising public awareness for prompt evacuation was stressed. For more information, please ask Ms. Nakamura ([nakamura@adrc.or.jp](mailto:nakamura@adrc.or.jp)).

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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