



ADRC Highlights Vol.128

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

16 November 2005

- **Report on the South Asia Earthquake**
- **IRP Secretariat joined a survey team to Pakistan**

Mr. Masahiko Murata, Recovery Expert of the International Recovery Platform (IRP) Secretariat* located in Kobe-Hyogo, participated in the Early Recovery (ER) activities in Pakistan from 21 to 31 October 2005. He joined the UN Needs Assessment Mission for Early Recovery (up to 9-12 months) and visited Peshawar, Mansehra, Balakot, Shangla and Batagram in North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) with UNDP, UNEP, Habitat, ILO, WHO and other organizations. Mr. Murata's main role in the Mission was to propose "Risk Reduction" measures in cooperation with partners.



Mr. Murata highlighted the following findings for effective Early Recovery in Pakistan, based on his experience in response to and recovery from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake:

(1) The need for quick reinforcement of damaged infrastructure such as bridges and sustaining walls of mountainous roads, which are currently passable but in dangerous situation; (2) The importance of seismic resilient structure of public buildings as well as community involvement for the construction of seismic resilient houses at reasonable cost. (3) The need to introduce a suitable and feasible way for housing recovery, including the preparation for the severe winter, taking into consideration the lifestyle of the farmers and cattle breeders, the negative impacts on environment by deforestation, and the disposal of debris produced as a result of recovery activities.

For the disaster information, please visit ADRC website at <http://www.adrc.or.jp> (GLIDE: EQ-2005-000174-PAK for Pakistan; -IND for India). For more information on this mission, please contact Mr. Murata at: murata@recoveryplatform.org

* Mr. Murata has been seconded by ADRC to the IRP Secretariat since the establishment of the office in May 2005.

- **ADRC participated in the ICIMOD's workshop on flash flood management in the Himalayas**

"The International Workshop on Flash Floods Management and Sustainable Development in the Himalayas" was held in Lhasa, Tibet, P.R. China from 23 to 28 October 2005. The workshop was organized by International Centre for the Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the China Meteorological Administration, and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The objective of the workshop was to collect and share information on the current status of

flash flood management in ICIMOD member countries. Another objective was to discuss the preparedness and development in the Greater Himalayan region. A total of approximately 80 participants attended the workshop, including delegations from 7 ICIMOD countries; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan, as well as some international institutions. ADRC also participated.

Mountain flash floods are rapid and intense flow of water created by extreme cloudbursts, glacial lake outbursts, landslide dambursts and, potentially, manmade dam failures, some of which are related to earthquakes that pose great danger to communities and infrastructure located downstream, said Director General of ICIMOD, Dr. Gabriel Campbell during an opening speech on the first day. ADRC Researcher Mr. Shingo Kochi made a presentation on Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM), and also shared his thoughts from the perspectives of flood management in Japan.

On the final day, "The Lhasa Declaration on Flash Flood Management" was adopted and the workshop drew to a successful closure. The Declaration lays out general conclusion and recommendations from the workshop. Recommendations include increasing public awareness, promoting community based program, fostering regional and transboundary cooperation, establishing early warning system, and so on.

ADRC would like to cooperate with ICIMOD toward the future efforts, and also to share knowledge with ADRC member countries where the same issues lie. For more information, please contact Mr. Kochi (kochi@adrc.or.jp).

- **ADRC was invited to the National Inter Agency Consultation in Mongolia**

Dr. Tetsushi Kurita, Senior Researcher of ADRC, was invited to the national inter agency consultation on 'Earthquake' organized by Mongolian Red Cross Society and the National Emergency Agency, Government of Mongolia. The consultation was held in Ulaanbaatar on 15-16 September 2005 with the participation of authorities in charge of disaster risk management and delegates from Japanese Red Cross Society, Chinese Red Cross Society, IFRC, The Netherlands Red Cross and UNDP. Dr. Kurita, made a presentation entitled 'Lessons learnt from the 1995 Kobe earthquake and advancement of design standard.'



In the group discussion session, Dr. Kurita joined the 'Preparedness & Mitigation' group and exchanged views on policy & planning, information dissemination, training, and emergency stocks. For more information, please contact Dr. Kurita at kurita@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)**

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