



# ADRC Highlights

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- **Public Forum "Winning against disasters – Roles of Education, Development and Community Action for Sustainable Development" will be held on 19 October**

How long do we need to live at the mercy of natural disasters caused by vulnerability to natural hazards? It is becoming increasingly clear that natural disasters are causing unacceptably high human and economic losses world wide. Convincing evidence of this trend can be found in various assessments made by the UN, The World Bank and insurance industry. What can be done? What are the long term and short term strategies required to address disaster reduction effectively? In 2005, 168 Governments adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) which sets the necessary goals and priority actions. To successfully implement the Framework and create a world in which natural hazards can be managed without becoming disasters, we must use all available resources. In this respect, who are the most important actors; what kind of alliances should be made; what resources should be harnessed?

Co-organizing with United Nations University (UNU), Cabinet Office of Japan, UN/ISDR, UNESCO, The World Bank, ADRC is going to hold a public forum at U Thant International Conference Hall, UNU, Tokyo, Japan from 14:00-17:30, 19 October 2006.

\*\*\*\* Programme \*\*\*\*

**Presentations:**

Prof. Hans van Ginkel, Rector, UNU  
Mr. Muhammad Saidur Rahman, Director, Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre  
Ms. Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard, Director, Transport and Urban Development, The World Bank

**Panel Discussion:**

The above three speakers and  
Mr. Badaoui Rouhban, Chief, Section for Disaster Reduction, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO  
Ms. Charmine Koda, Director, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)  
Mr. Koji Suzuki, Executive Director, ADRC

**Moderator:**

Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Director for Disaster Preparedness, Public Relations & International Cooperation, Cabinet Office

In the forum, renowned speakers and panelists will discuss and explore the roles of education, infrastructure development and community action in addressing disaster risk reduction issues. Japanese-English simultaneous translation will be provided. Admission is free. To register, please email your name, address and phone/fax number to [octoberforum@adrc.or.jp](mailto:octoberforum@adrc.or.jp) by 12 October 2006. For more information, please visit [http://www.adrc.or.jp/events/octoberforum/October\\_Forum\\_E.htm](http://www.adrc.or.jp/events/octoberforum/October_Forum_E.htm).

- **ADRC Staff Profile No. 26**  
□ **Mr. Hirovuki WATABE, Senior Researcher**



I joined ADRC as a Senior Researcher in August 2006 on dispatch from Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co.,Ltd. where my main responsibility is risk management for commercial property

clients To underwrite the insured risk, first we assess the amount of client's risk and then calculate the risk premium. If an appropriate insurance product cannot be offered due to the nature of risk or higher premium for the client, we provide the risk mitigation services to reduce a client's risk by implementing prevention and protection measures. Nowadays, companies face a diverse range of risks, and in some cases the insurance products we traditionally provide are not sufficient for our client's risk needs. In this case, the risk solution consultation service is important for the client's risk mitigation needs.

For natural hazard risk, I developed and implemented the probabilistic earthquake risk assessment for oil & gas plants and semi-conductor facilities, and also developed a typhoon derivative product to mitigate typhoon risk. Recently, natural catastrophes such as Hurricane Katrina and the Indian Ocean Tsunami caused huge insured losses and negatively impacted the insurance industry's financial stability. Insurance companies have developed the probabilistic natural hazard evaluation model (CAT model) as a risk management tool, and evaluate their insured portfolio with montecarlo simulation technique to prepare for future catastrophic events.

Since the re-insurance market did not provide sufficient capacity to insurance companies in the recent series of catastrophic losses Japanese insurers have taken steps to maintain their financial stability, including swapping transaction with US insurers and offering earthquake risk securitization products in financial markets.

Risk management is composed of measuring, assessing risk and developing strategies. Strategies include transferring risk to another party, avoiding risk, reducing negative effect of the risk, and accepting some or all of the consequences of a particular risk. In Asian countries, risk management for natural hazard has finally started with the adoption of loss prevention measures. In the near future, risk transfer measures with insurance or securitization will also be an essential tool to mitigate natural hazard risk.

I look forward to contributing to ADRC's activity by applying the skills and knowledge acquired from my past experience to the best of my ability.

If you have comments or questions regarding this newsletter, please contact the ADRC.

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