



# ADRC Highlights

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## ➤ Study Tour of Disaster Hazard Mitigation Project for Kyrgyz Republic

From 20 to 26 September 2006, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) hosted a Study Tour of Disaster Hazard Mitigation for the Kyrgyz Republic, in the context of the World Bank's Disaster Hazard Mitigation Project. The tour participants consisted of the Minister of Emergency Situations, His Excellency Mr. Janish Rustanbekov and seven officials from the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Kyrgyz Republic which is situated in the mountains of Central Asia, has a very complex landscape with complicated geological and meteorological characteristics. The area is prone to natural hazards such as earthquakes, flash floods, mudflows, avalanches, and landslides.

Participants visited the Cabinet Office of Japan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, the Japan Meteorological Agency, Hyogo Prefecture, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation), the Imperial Palace, Osaka Gas, and the Golden Temple, as well as the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI) and the ADRC. They learned about efforts taken by relevant stakeholders, such as the central and local governments, meteorological agency, the media, and lifeline companies. They also visited sites in the Rokko Mountains where landslide countermeasures and erosion control measures have been implemented.



Given the plans to enhance the capacity of the Emergency Management Center of the Kyrgyz Republic, the participants engaged in earnest discussions with representatives of the Disaster Management Center of the Cabinet Office, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and Hyogo Prefecture.

The delegation paid courtesy calls on the Minister of State for Disaster Management, the Minister of Environment, the Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Director-General of the Japan Meteorological Agency, and the Governor of Hyogo Prefecture.

The ADRC wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to all who contributed to the success of this training course. For further information about this study tour, please contact the ADRC's Senior Researcher Mr. Takaaki Shiratori ([shiratori@adrc.or.jp](mailto:shiratori@adrc.or.jp)) or Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki ([tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp](mailto:tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp)).

## ➤ Public Forum "Winning Against Disasters" held at UNU, Tokyo on 19 October 2006

Commemorating the International Day for Disaster Reduction

(11 October 2006), the ADRC co-organized a public forum entitled "Winning Against Disasters: Roles of Education, Development and Community Action for Sustainable Development" with United Nations University (UNU), the Cabinet Office of Japan, the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the World Bank at UNU in Tokyo on 19 October 2006. Conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Hyogo Prefectural Government, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), NHK, the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, the Asia Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), and the International Recovery Platform (IRP) Kobe, the forum attracted more than 170 participants.



The objectives of the forum were to address ways to enhance public understanding of the need to strengthen disaster reduction capacity in Japan and around the world, and to further promote international cooperation on disaster reduction. In 2005, 168 governments adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) which sets the goals and priority actions that need to be taken. All available resources must be mobilized if we are to successfully implement this framework and create a world in which natural hazards can be managed in such a way that they do not become disasters. The forum discussed and explored the roles of education, infrastructure development, and community action in achieving this.

The forum started with presentations by Mr. Hans van Ginkel, Rector of UNU, Mr. Saidur Rahman, Director of the Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC), and Ms. Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard, Director for Transport and Urban Development, World Bank.

A panel discussion was then held among six experts, including Mr. Itaru Yasui, Vice-Rector of UNU, Mr. Koji Suzuki, Executive Director of the ADRC, Ms. Tomoko Shibao, Director of the Education Division at ACCU, and Ms. Charmine Koda, Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC). At the end of the discussion, the moderator, Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Director for Disaster Preparedness, Public Relations & International Cooperation, Cabinet Office of Japan, pointed out the importance of pursuing disaster risk reduction education in schools and strengthening school buildings themselves in achieving safe communities and implementing effective disaster risk management.

The forum was broadcast on NHK TV news on 20 October 2006. A summary and other related documents will be made available on the ADRC website once they are ready. For more information, please contact Senior Researcher Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki ([tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp](mailto:tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp)).

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

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