



ADRC Highlights

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➤ **Project for Promoting Community-Based Disaster Reduction in Sri Lanka**

Based on its prior survey findings, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) has been promoting "Community-Based Hazard Mapping" to enhance the disaster reduction capacity of the local communities in Galle district in southern Sri Lanka.



The devastation caused by the Indian Ocean Tsunami raised public awareness of disaster mitigation in Sri Lanka, but the lack of experience in this field has resulted in a lack of effective

and efficient measures for maintaining and improving disaster prevention knowledge. Transferring knowledge and lessons learned from Japan's disaster experience is a very practical approach to enhancing disaster prevention capacity at the community level.

Among the most effective means of transferring knowledge is a method introduced by the ADRC called "town watching." This process involves analyses and discussions among local residents, government officials, and experts to facilitate knowledge sharing, and it has already been recognized for its favorable outcomes throughout Japan. With the support of the Disaster Management Center in Sri Lanka, which was established in 2005, we are striving to ensure that comprehensive and sustainable disaster prevention activities become firmly established in Sri Lanka.

This project mainly consisted of three different types of workshops. The first was the "district workshop," which was designed to provide opportunities for local government officials to learn the town watching methodology. It was held from 18 to 20 April 2006 and was attended by 100 participants from local government offices in Galle district. The second type, the "pilot community workshop," was held to train the district workshop participants on 24 and 26 April 2006. The third type, the "community workshop," was held from June 2006 to March 2007.

The officials who attended the "district workshop" became trainers to those who attended the "community workshop." Daily project management was conducted by three locally hired staff. ADRC researchers occasionally visited the sites during the project period to track progress and provide advice to meet the needs of the local staff.

This project was supported by a Japan NGO Grant Aid,

and was completed on 30 March 2007. As many as 100 community workshops were held in 19 divisions of Galle district and were attended by 3,350 residents. For more information, please contact Mr. Makoto Ikeda (ikedam@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **JICA Training "Disaster Coordination Training for Istanbul"**

Thanks to financial support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the ADRC conducted a training course entitled "Disaster Coordination Training for Istanbul" from 12 to 22 March 2007. This course was designed to provide opportunities for disaster management officials from the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality to learn about Japan's disaster management systems, especially the disaster coordination systems that exist between prefectural governments and municipalities, and to prepare for future disasters.

Six officials from the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and its Disaster Coordination Center (AKOM) participated in this course and attended a series of lectures on Japan's disaster management system, the roles of various organizations in disaster prevention and response activities, and the coordination systems that exist between prefectures and municipalities (such as between Shizuoka Prefecture and Shizuoka City, and between Hyogo Prefecture and Kobe City). In addition, they visited the Cabinet Office, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Tokyo Fire Department, the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Center, the Hyogo Emergency Medical Center and other facilities, helping them gain a clearer image of the efforts undertaken by those institutions. The participants were enthusiastic about learning from the lectures and showed a keen interest in the disaster prevention efforts that have been taken by Japan and in the country's well established disaster coordination structure. They are excited to utilize what they learned back in Istanbul.



The ADRC wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to all of those who contributed to the success of this training course. For further information, please contact Mr. Kenpei Kojika (kojika@adrc.or.jp) or Ms. Maki Yoshida (yoshida@adrc.or.jp).