



# ADRC Highlights

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➤ **International Symposium on the Civil Defense Development Strategy in the 21st Century held in Shanghai**

The International Symposium on the Civil Defense Development Strategy in the 21st Century organized by the China National Civil Defense Office and the Shanghai Municipal Civil Defense Office, was held in Shanghai, China, from 26 to 27 July 2007. ADRC Senior Administrative Manager, Mr. Koichi Nagano, was invited by both governments to participate in the symposium.

The symposium was attended by approximately 140 participants, about 40 of whom were from outside China. These international delegates included representatives of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), as well as such emergency relief organizations as the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) headquartered in the US, and international organizations such as the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the ADRC. They also included government officials in charge of civil defense, representatives and researchers of various organizations from 13 countries (Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Indonesia, Jordan, Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Russia, Singapore, Sweden, the UK, and the US).

The opening ceremony was followed by a plenary session featuring presentations on the role and organizational management of civil defense, and the construction of community civil defense structures. Mr. Nagano gave a presentation on the ADRC's recent activities, particularly those in the field of community capacity building. He also described the Hyogo prefectural government's practice of concluding advance disaster response agreements with all the cities and towns in Hyogo, as well as with private companies such as convenience stores.

On the second day of the symposium, after viewing emergency rescue drills organized by the Shanghai municipal government, sub-symposium discussions were held among the overseas participants. As a result, the participants agreed to develop a network for collecting and sharing relevant information among the participating organizations, reflecting efforts by the UN/ISDR, the IAEM, and the ADRC to highlight the importance of implementing disaster preparedness measures and of developing networks between governments and relevant organizations. The IAEM proposed holding next year's meeting in Washington, DC.

The ADRC's presentation on Asia's numerous disasters and the importance of disaster risk reduction for sustainable development was posted on the Shanghai News web site. For more information, please contact Mr. Nagano ([nagano@adrc.or.jp](mailto:nagano@adrc.or.jp)).

➤ **Announcement**

□ **Public Forum "Sustaining Water Cycle for Disaster Risk Reduction" will be held at UN House on Wednesday, 10 October 2007**

Recent increases in human activity are affecting the natural environment on an unprecedented scale, disrupting the stability of the natural resource and energy cycles that are essential to human survival. Global and local water cycles are the key to some of the most challenging issues confronting us today.

Taking advantage of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction (10 October this year) and the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Japanese Association of Hydrological Sciences (JAHS), United Nations University (UNU), the JAHS, the UN/ISDR, and the ADRC will co-organize a public forum entitled "Sustaining Water Cycle for Disaster Risk Reduction" on 10 October 2007 (13:30 to 17:00). It will be held in the U Thant International Conference Hall on the 3rd floor of UN House in Tokyo

(<http://www.unu.edu/hq/ginfor/contact.html>).

At this forum, the topic of sustaining the water cycle for disaster risk reduction will be reviewed from different viewpoints including the restoration and sustainability of the urban water cycle, groundwater problems in greater Tokyo, integrated water quality management and the role of the water cycle in sustainability. Its aim is to identify new paradigms for sustaining the water cycle for disaster risk reduction. The program will include a keynote lecture by Mr. Y Takahasi (UNU) and presentations by Mr. M. Saito (Nippon Koei Co., Ltd.), Mr. T. Hayashi (Akita University), Mr. S. Nishikawa (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport) and Mr. S. Herath (UNU), followed by a panel discussion moderated by Mr. A. Yoshikoshi (Ritsumeikan University).

Simultaneous interpretation of Japanese/English will be provided. Admission is free. To register for this Forum, please email your name, affiliation, address, phone/fax number(s) and e-mail address to [forum2007entry@jahs.jpn.org](mailto:forum2007entry@jahs.jpn.org) or send your request by fax to 03-5317-9430 by Wednesday, 3 October 2007. For more information, please contact the Forum Secretariat, JAHS (Tel: 03-3329-1151 ext. 5213).



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