



ADRC

Highlights

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Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

1 October 2007

➤ **JICA Training "Strengthening the Disaster Coordination System" for Istanbul**

Thanks to financial support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted a training course entitled "Strengthening the Disaster Coordination System" for Istanbul from 27 August to 7 September 2007 in both Kobe and Tokyo. Intended to serve as a follow up to a training course held in March 2007 (see Vol. 162), this course was designed to help strengthen the disaster management capabilities of officials working for the municipal government and the city's Disaster Coordination Center (AKOM), as well as to help strengthen the structures linking the provincial and municipal governments. Istanbul was targeted because a major earthquake is expected to occur there in the near future.

Ten officials from the Istanbul municipal government and AKOM, headed by Prof. Mikdat Kadioglu of Istanbul Technical University (also an advisor for the city of Istanbul), participated in this course and attended a series of lectures on Japan's disaster and fire management systems. They learned about the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's "Promotion Plan for a Disaster Resistant City," as well as the disaster management systems, disaster risk reduction-oriented urban planning process, and disaster insurance systems adopted by Hyogo Prefecture and the City of Kobe. In addition, they visited the Tachikawa Life Safety Learning Center, the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Center, and E-Defense, observed disaster management drills, and participated in a town watching exercise. Since 1 September was Disaster Prevention Day in Japan, the trainees were fortunate to have a chance to observe Hyogo Prefecture's Comprehensive Disaster Management Drill and a disaster



preparedness drill held by a community in Kobe's Nada ward. Trainees were impressed with the drills, which involved a variety of participants ranging from local government officials to fire service personnel, the police, members of the

community, private companies, and others. The participants were enthusiastic about learning from this two-week training course and expected to be able to utilize what they learned and saw in Japan to strengthen disaster management and coordination systems 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 Ms. Maki Yoshida (yoshida@adrc.or.jp).

➤ **ISDR Hyogo Office Opening Ceremony and Public Forum on "Human Security and International Disaster Cooperation"**

The UN secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) will inaugurate its Hyogo Office in Kobe on 14 October 2007. The ISDR Hyogo Office will be located in the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI). Its main task will be to promote and develop collaborative activities with relevant international agencies based in Japan and East Asia, as well as with Japanese academic, scientific, civic, and governmental institutions. It will work to expand support for international disaster risk reduction efforts aimed at the implementation of the "Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015" (adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Hyogo, January 2005). Also, a photographic exhibition entitled "Human Security for All" will be held at the DRI on 16-21 October. To conjunction with these events, a public forum will be held on "Human Security and International Disaster Cooperation" in the Hyogo House.

□ **ISDR Hyogo Office Opening Ceremony**

¶ Date/Time: Sunday, 14 October 2007, 13:45 - 14:05

¶ Venue: Hitomiraikan, DRI, Hyogo, Japan

¶ Program: Opening remarks by UN/ISDR Director, Mr. Salvano Briceno, Governor of Hyogo, Mr. Toshizo Ido, and a representative of the government of Japan. Ribbon-cutting by the abovementioned speakers as well as the Director of the UN Information Centre (UNIC) in Japan, Ms. Charmine Koda, UNDP Tokyo Office Director, Shun-ichi Murata, ADRC Executive Director, Mr. Koji Suzuki, and others.

□ **Public Forum "Human Security and International Disaster Cooperation"**

¶ Date/Time: 15:00 - 17:00, Sunday 14 October 2007

¶ Venue: Hyogo House, Hyogo, Japan

¶ Organized by: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNIC, UN/ISDR

¶ Co-organized by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, ADRC, Hyogo Prefecture, Hyogo International Association (HIA), the UN Association of Japan, Kobe, and DRI

¶ Supported by JICA

¶ Program (preliminary): 15:00: Opening remarks by Ms. Koda/ 15:10: Public forum featuring four panelists: actress and photographer Ms. Norika Fujiwara, UN/ISDR Director Mr. Briceno, Osaka University Associate Professor Dr. Kaoru Kurusu, and Governor Ido of Hyogo/ 16:50: Closing remarks (Japanese government representative)

To register for the Public Forum, please send your name, address, affiliation, and phone number, as well as the title of the event ("Public Forum on Human Security and International Disaster Cooperation") to the Hyogo Prefecture International Exchange Division by fax (078-361-2540) or email (kokusaiouryuuka@pref.hyogo.jp) by 9 October. Registration is on a first come, first served basis.

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

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Hitomiraikan 5F, 1-5-2, Wakinohamakaigan-dori, Chuo-ku, Kobe

651-0073, JAPAN

E-mail: editor@adrc.or.jp

Phone: +81-78-262-5540