



# ADRC Highlights

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## ● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions Workshop for Local Officials in Bangladesh

The ADRC co-organized a workshop entitled “Trainers' Training Program on Community Based Hazard Map Development” with the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management of Bangladesh (MoFDM) on 28-29 November 2007. The workshop, financed by the UN/ESCAP Tsunami Regional Fund, aimed at training local officials to be trainers through community-based hazard mapping and town watching activities designed to enhance the disaster resilience of communities. Although it was held right after the catastrophic Cyclone Sidr, 19 officials in charge of disaster management came from municipalities nationwide to participate.

On the first day, the MoFDM Joint Secretary, Ms. Mosena Ferdonsni and the ADRC Executive Director, Mr. Koji Suzuki delivered opening remarks. Dr. Aslam Alam of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, and the BDPC Director Mr. Saidur Rahman then gave lectures on the natural disaster risks in Bangladesh and the Dhaka region, respectively. Dr. Yuichiro Ogawa, Dean of Fujitokoha University then lectured on urban disaster risks, citing the lessons learned from such previous Japanese disasters as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, and explained the town watching and hazard mapping method.



On the second day, town watching activities were conducted in Old Dhaka, a densely populated area that is expected to sustain the most severe damage in the event of an earthquake in Dhaka. Old Dhaka is a maze of streets in a forest of old buildings. Thus, problems related to evacuation and rescue activities are expected to occur in the aftermath of an earthquake. The trainees divided up into groups to identify the problems faced by Old Dhaka by interviewing residents in the busy streets. They displayed the problems identified on a map and discussed who should address them and in what way. Then each group gave a presentation, in which they touched on such problems as the lack of evacuation shelters, urban planning challenges, and hygiene issues not specifically related to natural disasters.

Through the two-day workshop, the trainees gained a better understanding of the natural disaster risks in Dhaka, discovered the

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effectiveness of creating hazard maps based on town watching activities, and learned how to engage in risk communication (methods of filling in the information gap between individuals with regard to risk) through town watching and hazard mapping.

The trainees were encouraged to recommend that these efforts be put into practice in their workplaces so as to promote their widespread implementation. The workshop video will be translated into a local language and distributed to the trainees and disaster management officials.

**The Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction**

The Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was organized in New Delhi, India on 7 - 8 November. The conference, following the Beijing conference in September 2005, aimed to review the Asian countries' efforts to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) which was adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction 2005 in Kobe.

Some 500 people attended, including ministers and cabinet-level officials in charge of disaster management from across Asia, as well as representatives from the UN, regional organizations, academic institutions, and NGOs from about 50 countries. They eagerly discussed disaster management activities in Asia at high-level round tables, technical sessions, and side events. On the second day of the conference, the Delhi Declaration 2007 was adopted to further promote the HFA, and Kuala Lumpur was selected as the venue for the next conference in 2008.

At the request of the Government of India, the ADRC participated in the conference as a partner organization. ADRC Executive Director Mr. Koji Suzuki introduced Japan's public-private partnership in disaster management at a high-level round table, while Senior Expert Mr. Masahiko Murata and Senior Researcher Mr. Hiroyuki Watabe gave presentations entitled "Lessons Learned from Kobe Earthquake 1995" and "Seismic Macrozonation and Earthquake Risk Assessment in Japan," respectively. Mr. Akio Kito of the Japan Meteorological Agency gave a presentation on "Climate Change and its Impact on Typhoon/Cyclonic Storm Surge in the Asia-Pacific Region."

Given that the International Recovery Platform lists cooperation with regional organizations among its strategic objectives, it organized a regional forum entitled "Beyond Lessons Learned from Post-Disaster Recovery" on the morning of 8 November. Mr. Redi of the National Disaster Management Authority of India served as chairperson while Dr. Ian Davis, UK Cranfield University Visiting Professor served as the panel discussion moderator.



## **Workshop with SAARC Member Countries**

The “SAARC-Japan Workshop on Regional Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction,” held on 6 November 2007 in Delhi, was attended by high-level officials in charge of disaster management from member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The importance of strengthening regional cooperation mechanisms for disaster risk reduction has been made increasingly apparent by recent earthquakes, floods, and cyclones in South Asia. Regional efforts have already begun, including the establishment of the Japan-SAARC Special Fund of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

(Japan), which supports the utilization of Japan’s disaster management know-how in South Asia. This workshop emphasized the disaster prevention activities that need to be taken in the future, such as the development of a vulnerability map using satellite technologies, and the formulation of a plan for collecting the indigenous disaster prevention knowledge of various countries.



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