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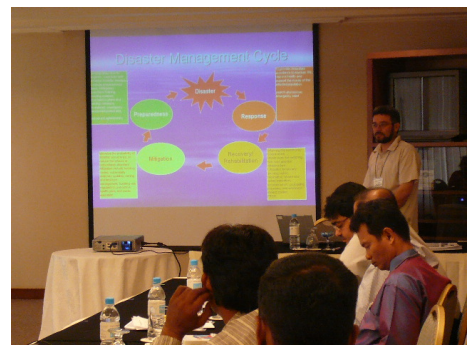
● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions The Second Year of the JICA Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project "NGO Training for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia" was conducted in Kuala Lumpur

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), conducted the second year of the "NGO Training for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia" Project from 29 to 31 July 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The second year program consisted of a three-day

workshop during which first-year participants had a chance to share their experiences in their own countries and the knowledge they gained from the first year program (training in Japan, see Vol. 177) with other Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN*) members. It was attended by six first-year participants, six new participants, and three resource persons from ADRRN members, an officer from the ADRRN Secretariat, and two researchers from the ADRC. During the workshop, participants discussed and shared their opinions on various topics including community-based disaster risk management, disaster risk reduction tools (town watching), climate change, and gender issues.

The first day of the workshop allowed participants to share opinions on the disaster/disaster risk reduction knowledge and tools they had gained during the first-year training program, and to discuss disaster risk reduction strategies and methodologies used by each NGO. This was particularly useful given the rarity of such opportunities for ADRRN members.

Furthermore, during a session on climate change and disaster risk reduction, one first-year participant from SEEDS India started the discussion by describing a climate change and disaster risk reduction project that SEEDS launched this year. Few NGOs in the ADRRN have made progress in the area of climate change mitigation and adaptation because they lack the specialized knowledge necessary to implement projects, but they are aware of the importance of moving forward in this area in the future. The importance of addressing climate change is recognized by all members of the ADRRN, as is



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the need to promote active information sharing with one another.

In the session on gender and disasters, Ms. Mona Hanim Sheikh Mahmud, General Manager of MERCY Malaysia, was invited to give a presentation entitled "Looking Through Gender Lenses: Disaster Response and Preparedness" as an introduction to the session. Most participants are conducting disaster risk reduction activities with an awareness of gender-related issues, but they face significant difficulty when it comes to changing people's mindsets related to gender. Some participants mentioned the importance of early education to efforts to overcome existing biases.

After the workshop, several participants indicated their desire to have access to more tools and methodologies related to disaster risk reduction. In response to this feedback, the first-year participants are planning to compile a resource of disaster risk reduction tools and methodologies collected from each organization. The ADRC wishes to work in close collaboration with JICA to further support the efforts of the first-year participants. In addition, it plans to monitor the action plans developed by the first-year and new participants (which integrate the training and workshop findings into existing disaster management programs).



*ADRRN is a NGO network to promote coordination and collaboration among NGOs and other stakeholders for effective and efficient disaster reduction and response in the Asia-Pacific region.

● **ADRC Visiting Researcher Report** **Mr. Vu Thanh Liem from Vietnam**

My name is Vu Thanh Liem. I work for the Department of Dikes Management and Flood, Storm Control (DDMFC) in Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

Vietnam is located in the tropical monsoon area, one of the five most storm-prone areas in the Asia-Pacific region, and thus is often affected by various types of natural disasters. In recent years, successive disasters all over the country have caused vast losses of human life, property, and socio-economic and cultural infrastructure, as well as environmental degradation. In the decade from 1997 to 2006, natural disasters such as typhoons, floods, and droughts have caused significant losses, including 7,500 missing persons and fatalities, and asset damage equivalent to 1.5% of GDP.

Under the guidance of the MARD, Vietnam has been involved in natural disaster mitigation efforts in cooperation with such international organizations as the ADRC, the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Typhoon Committee (TC), the Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership (NDM-P), the International Strategy for



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Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), foreign agencies, and NGOs involved in disaster mitigation.

During my six-month stay in Japan, I hope to learn about Japan's disaster management practices, especially in the areas of flood control, cyclone management, and disaster education systems, and look forward to sharing experiences with my colleague from Nepal. I am confident that Vietnam will benefit greatly from the ADRC's visiting researcher program.

●ADRC Staff Profile No. 33

Mr. Yoshiaki Ogane, Senior Researcher

I am Yoshiaki Ogane, and on 1 July 2008, I was sent by Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance to succeed Mr. Watabe as a senior researcher at the ADRC.

Insurance companies in Japan insure people not only against earthquake risk, but also against risks from various kinds of natural disasters, including wind storms and floods. Unlike fires, whose numbers on a national scale are relatively constant every year, natural disasters result in large lump-sum insurance payouts. It is therefore essential for insurance companies to control the concentration of natural disaster risk in order to stabilize their corporate management. At Tokio Marine & Nichido, I was in charge of studying the methodologies of quantifying natural disaster risks (how often natural disasters occur and how much money the company has to pay when they do) as well as risk financing strategies, including CAT Bonds (catastrophe bonds).



At the ADRC, I would like to build on my experience by studying methods of providing economic incentives to adopt disaster reduction countermeasures, and policies for introducing market mechanisms into the field of disaster risk reduction. I very much hope that my work will make a positive contribution to the efforts of the ADRC.

●Announcements

ADRC's New Publication

The ADRC's new publication "Total Disaster Risk Management: Good Practices 2008" is available on the website (http://www.adrc.or.jp/publications/TDRM2005/TDRM_Good_Practices/GP2008_e.html).

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