



ADRC Highlights

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● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization Visit the ADRC

A delegation from the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization visited the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) on 21 August 2008. Focusing on the possibility for regional disaster reduction activities to be launched in the Arab region, this delegation came to learn about the experiences of the ADRC, which has developed many projects in the field of disaster reduction in Asia.



Ms. Tsujigami, Research Associate at the ADRC, gave a presentation on the ADRC's activities. ADRC Executive Director Mr. Suzuki and Senior Researcher Ms. Tsunozaki then gave advice on the importance of capacity building, including human resource development.

In addition to visiting the ADRC, the delegation visited the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) Hyogo Office, the UN Center for Regional Development (UNCRD), the International Recovery Platform (IRP) Secretariat, the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI), and the Hyogo



Emergency Medical Center, all members of the Disaster Reduction Alliance (DRA). They also paid a courtesy call on Japanese Red Cross Kobe Hospital.

Through their visit to this cluster of institutions located in the New Eastern City Center of Kobe (called HAT Kobe), delegation members learned about the DRA's multifaceted efforts to engage in cooperative disaster risk reduction.

● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report Mr. Shambhu Prasad Marasini from Nepal

My name is Shambhu Prasad Marasini. I was born in Syangja district in western Nepal and grew up in Nawal Parasi district, in southern Nepal.

I started my career in 1989 from the banking sector. Since 1995, I have

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been working in various offices under the Ministry of Home Affairs. I am now involved in disaster risk management for this ministry after having spent more than a decade working as disaster management experts at the central and district levels. I spent a considerable period of time conducting fieldwork in different districts in my capacity as an administrative officer for the District Administration Office. The District Administration Office is the main agency involved in implementing disaster risk reduction activities in Nepal.

Under the existing legal framework, the Ministry of Home Affairs is mandated to serve as the national focal point for disaster risk management in Nepal. The apex body for disaster risk management in Nepal is the Central Disaster Relief Committee, which is chaired by the Home Minister and is comprised of representatives of more than 30 responsible policy-making agencies of the government of Nepal. The secretariat of this committee is the Disaster Management Section of the Ministry of Home Affairs, which is responsible for facilitating all activities related to disaster risk reduction as well as for supervising search, rescue, and relief activities. It is this section where I am now utilizing my extensive experience in field-level activities related to implementation of the disaster risk management. My primary responsibility is to assist the section chief in all phases of the disaster management cycle and to create an environment of cooperation between national as well as international agencies involved in disaster risk management.

Since July, I have been working at the ADRC as a visiting researcher. The Visiting Researcher Program provides opportunities for member country representatives to share information and experience with fellow members and to develop information networks related to disaster risk reduction.

This program will help strengthen my personal as well as organizational capabilities in the area of reducing disaster risk. It also will help produce disaster risk reduction experts and promote the formulation of effective policies, plans and programs. Continuous research is sure to lead to the discovery of specific and effective measures to combat natural disasters. I am confident that after six months in this program, I will be better equipped to improve and strengthen disaster risk reduction management in Nepal.



Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal

● ADRC Staff Profile No. 34

Dr. Noburu Uchiyama, Senior Researcher

I was transferred to the ADRC from Shimizu Corporation, a Japanese construction company, in July 2008. I had been working in a company research institute as a specialist in geo-technology, and have been involved in experimental research for ground improvement, the rational execution of excavation work, and the reuse of construction waste such as mud slurry and concrete aggregate.

Though this is my first time working in the field of natural disaster and disaster risk reduction, I am keenly aware of the close relationship between disaster reduction and geo-technology. The ground is often both a victim, as well as a cause, of disasters. When studying the social consequences of disasters

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and efforts to mitigate them, on the other hand, it is important to discuss issues related to local communities. Engineers must recognize the need to find practical ways to integrate their engineering expertise and disaster reduction technologies with capacity-development efforts of communities for disaster risk reduction.

I will strive to promote ADRC activities for disaster reduction in Asia, and look forward to acquiring new skills and knowledge through this challenging opportunity.

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