



ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 188
November
2008

TOPICS

Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

ASEAN Project: Capacity Building for Local Government Officials in Disaster Management

ADRC Visiting Researcher (for ASEAN-GLIDE Project) Report

¶ Ms. Amor Bantigue Rosana from the Philippines

¶ Ms. Vimala Khounthalangsy from Lao PDR

Announcements

¶ Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2008 Draws to Successful Conclusion

¶ The First World Landslide Forum

Asian Disaster Reduction Center

Hitomirai-kan 5F, 1-5-2
Wakihama-kaigan-dori
Chuo-ku, Kobe
651-0073 Japan

Tel: 078-262-5540
Fax: 078-262-5546
editor@adrc.or.jp
http://www.adrc.or.jp

© ADRC 2008

● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

ASEAN Project: Capacity Building for Local Government Officials in Disaster Management

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted kickoff meetings for a project entitled “Capacity Building for Local Government Officials in Disaster Management” in Lao PDR and Cambodia in October 2008. As one of the ADRC's four ASEAN projects launched in fiscal 2008, this project aims at further strengthening the capacity of local government officials in charge of disaster management. This year, the project was launched in Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Viet Nam (see ADRC Highlights Vol. 182).



[Kickoff Meeting in Lao PDR]

For three days starting on 22 October, the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) of Lao PDR and ADRC held a kickoff event at the NDMO headquarters in Vientiane. Participants included officials from the NDMO and other disaster-related ministries and NGOs. Likewise, starting on 27 October, Cambodia's National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) and the ADRC met with many disaster management officials at the NCDM head office in Phnom Penh.

At these meetings, the ADRC outlined and explained the objectives of this project, after which the NDMO and NCDM, respectively, reported on their status with regard to disasters, their disaster management systems, and their need for measures to develop the capacity of local government officials in charge of disaster



[Kickoff Meeting in Cambodia]

management. Based on these reports, the NDMO/NCDM and ADRC discussed training topics, methodologies, materials, venues and schedules. Training materials in local languages will be produced based on the specific context of each country. In the middle of next year, trainings will be held for trainers, and then the trainers will be sent out to lead workshops for local government

Continued

officials. A similar kickoff meeting is being planned for Viet Nam in November this year, ensuring that this year's project remains in high gear.

We appreciate the understanding and cooperation of the NDMO and NCDM on the planning and implementation of these meetings and are especially grateful to former ADRC visiting researchers Mr. Vilayphong (NDMO) and Mr. Khun (NCDM) for playing coordinating roles in these efforts.

●ADRC Visiting Researcher (for ASEAN-GLIDE Project) Report Ms. Amor Bantique Rosana from the Philippines

I am Amor Bantique Rosana from the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Philippines. The OCD, a bureau under the Department of National Defense (DND) is the focal agency in the Philippines involved in disaster management programs and is also the implementing arm of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC). The OCD has a Central Office in Quezon City and 17 Regional Centers located nationwide, as well as more than 300 personnel who are involved in disaster management activities.



The NDCC is the highest policy-making and coordinating body for disaster risk management in the Philippines, and it advises the President on matters related to natural calamities and disasters, including recommendations for the declaration of a State of Calamity in disaster-affected areas. The Council is comprised of 14 Department Secretaries, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Secretary-General of the Philippine National Red Cross, and the Director-General of the Philippine Information Agency. The Secretary of National Defense serves as Chairman and Administrator of the OCD serves as Executive Officer. NDCC-member agencies carry out tasks and responsibilities related to disaster risk reduction under the NDCC system.

I have been working at the Operations Division as head of the Information and Communications and Technology (ICT) Section. My primary task is to come up with an ICT plan for the OCD, especially for the NDCC Operations Center, and to facilitate and monitor its implementation. This includes ICT applications for disaster management, which will be used and shared among NDCC-member agencies, disaster coordinating councils, international partners, and other stakeholders.

I will be at the ADRC from 16 September 2008 until 30 November 2008 for the six-week training program on the ASEAN-GLIDE Project under the Visiting Researcher Program. The ASEAN-GLIDE aims to organize a web-based historical disaster database applying the GLIDE system for use in disaster risk management. This training program includes visits to government and private organizations involved in various DRR activities. The ADRC Human Capacity Building Program has given me a great opportunity to learn about the DRR system in Japan. Sharing information about the DRR system in various countries, while also sharing my culture with my colleagues from Thailand, Lao PDR and the ADRC has been a memorable experience. The knowledge and skills I have gained through this program and the results of this ASEAN-GLIDE Project will surely enhance our disaster management/disaster risk reduction programs in the Philippines.

Ms. Vimala Khounthalangsy from Lao PDR

My name is Vimala Khounthalangsy, and I work for the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) in Lao PDR. I am primarily responsible for collecting disaster data from both domestic organizations and international sources, such as the ADRC website.

NDMO is responsible for coordinating disaster management activities both domestically and internationally, namely for promoting coordination among government ministries and agencies, implementing community awareness activities and projects, promoting disaster mitigation and preparedness activities at the local level, and providing training, guidelines and plans to make disaster risk management more effective.

Lao PDR is located in Asia and faces many different natural and man-made disasters such as floods, droughts, fire, windstorms, epidemics, traffic accidents, and UXO (unexploded ordnance). Flooding is the primary hazard in Lao PDR, and the many floods that occur every year cause significant damage to rice paddy fields and other crops, livestock, and fishing grounds, while also causing damaging irrigation systems and other infrastructure.

For two-and-a-half months from September to November 2008, I will be in Japan on the ADRC's visiting researcher program to work on the ASEAN-GLIDE project. I hope to share and learn about disaster information management with my colleagues at the ADRC, to study the web-based GLIDE system for managing disaster data, and to learn about risk management and information systems in Japan.



● Announcements

Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2008 Draws to Successful Conclusion

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2008 was held in Bali, Indonesia on 12-14 November 2008. This conference was organized by the government of the Republic of Indonesia, the Japanese government (Cabinet Office), the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), and the ADRC. It attracted approximately 100 participants, including government officials involved in disaster reduction in ADRC member countries, officers of relevant UN agencies, and disaster reduction specialists.

At the opening ceremony held on the first day of the conference, remarks were given by the co-chairmen of ACDR 2008, H.E. Dr. Kusmayanto Kadiman, State Minister of Research and Technology for the Republic of Indonesia, and H.E. Mr. Masayoshi Namiki, Vice Minister of the Cabinet Office of Japan. To promote the implementation of specific efforts aimed at achieving the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA), conference participants discussed the status of HFA implementation in each country and discussed the topic of private-public partnerships in the disaster reduction field.

Conference details will be provided in the next issue of ADRC Highlights.

The First World Landslide Forum

The First World Landslide Forum (<http://www.iclhq.org/WLFweb/WLF.htm>) will be held on 18-21 November 2008 at the United Nations University (UNU) in Aoyama, Tokyo to review the implementation of the 2006 Tokyo Action Plan on the International Programme on Landslides (IPL) with a view to achieving the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in January 2005. The Forum offers a number of keynote lectures and parallel sessions on specific themes related to landslide. The sessions listed below are free of charge to allow a wide range of stakeholders to participate.

- Case Studies and National Experiences (Session 2):

19 November (11:00-15:30) at Reception Hall on 2F

URL: http://www.unu.edu/events/#wlf_200811

- Public forum “Protection of society and cultural and natural heritage from landslides”:

19 November (14:00-17:30) at U-That hall (3F) with English/Japanese simultaneous interpretation

- Exhibition “Landslides and the Risk Mitigation Around the World”:

4-28 November (9:30-17:30) at Exhibition Hall (2F)

For Inquiries & Subscription Information

For more information or details regarding email subscriptions to this newsletter, please email editor@adrc.or.jp.