



# ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 192  
March  
2009

## TOPICS

### Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

ADRC Cooperative Project with Singapore: International Urban Search and Rescue Training Course

### ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

Mr. Muhammad Khalil Bin Ab Aziz from Malaysia

### Asian Disaster Reduction Center

Hitomiraikan 5F, 1-5-2  
Wakinohamakaigan-dori,  
Chuo-ku, Kobe  
651-0073 Japan

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

© ADRC 2009

## ●Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

### ADRC Cooperative Project with Singapore: International Urban Search and Rescue Training Course

I am CPT Ernest Ong of the Singapore Civil Defence Academy, and I was one of the trainers who taught the 37th International Urban Search and Rescue (IUSAR) Course.

The 37th IUSAR Course was successfully conducted from 5 to 16 January 2009 at the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), Civil Defence Academy. Four urban search and rescue specialists from Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Thailand were invited by the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) to participate in the two-week course along with 19 other participants from Australia, Bangladesh, and Macau.

The main objective of this course was to facilitate the mutual sharing and exchange of technical skills, expertise, and knowledge between international participants in urban search and rescue operations. Apart from learning essential rescue skills and improving their technical know-how, course participants were also given insight into such topics as casualty management and critical incident stress debriefings (CISD). Both of these skills are essential, as they directly impact the well being of both the victim and the rescuer.

Participants visited the Central Fire Station, Disaster Assistance & Rescue Team (DART) Unit, Search Dog Unit, Civil Defence Heritage Gallery, and SCDF Innoventure Land so they could gain a better understanding of the SCDF.

The SCDF is eager to continue working with the ADRC and its member countries toward the goal of reducing disaster risk in Asia.



**SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE**  
Civil Defence Academy: 37th International Urban Search & Rescue Course  
5 to 16 Jan 2009

Front Row (L to R): WO Jahan (Cue Administrator, CDA), CPT Ernest Ong (Cue Administrator, CDA), LTC Lin Han Chee (Chief Instructor, CDA),  
CIC, Christopher Tan (Instructor, CDA), MAJ Lo Hin Man (CIC, SCDF), A/CDR Amy Chia (Instructor, CDA), SGT David Sivalindran, CDA  
Sec Row (L to R): Mr Anthony Richard Gaynor (Australia), Mr A K B Bhattacharya (Bangladesh), Mr Mohd Anwarul Hossain (Bangladesh), Mr Leonard Mark Hill (Australia),  
Mr Mohd Asadul Momen (Bangladesh), Mr Lee Peng Chai (Malaysia), Mr Chai Wei Hui (Malaysia), Mr Damien Collier (Australia),  
Mr Jeff Mcdonnell (Australia), Mr Sven Christian Andersen (Australia),  
Mr Gopal Choudhary (Bangladesh), Mr Mohd Zahari Hapri (Bangladesh), Mr Pratik Choudhary (Bangladesh), Mr Eshwadevate Duggene (Mongolia),  
Mr Sigitardil (Indonesian), Mr Shamsul Karim (Australia), Mr Nongy Nong (Malaysia), Mr Lo Chee Ho (Malaysia),  
Mr Mohd Khondoker Md. Akbar Jali (Bangladesh), Mr Andrew Lavin (Australia), Mr Michael Geoffrey Burns (Australia),  
Not in Picture: Mr Shihwang Dengxin (Shanghai), Mr Arman Karambayev (Kazakhstan)

## ●ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

### **Mr. Muhammad Khalil Bin Ab Aziz from Malaysia**

My name is Muhammad Khalil Bin Ab Aziz, and I am from Malaysia, a federation consisting of 13 states and three federal territories covering a total land mass of 329,847 km<sup>2</sup> (127,355 square miles), located in Southeast Asia. Our capital city is Kuala Lumpur, while the administrative center of the federal government is located in Putrajaya. The population currently stands at over 27 million. The country is separated into two regions -Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia- by the South China Sea. Bordering Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, and the Philippines, Malaysia is located near the equator and has a tropical climate. The head of state is the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (conventionally referred to as 'the King' or 'the Agong') and the government is headed by a Prime Minister.



As an assistant director and weather forecaster for the Malaysian Meteorological Department at Kota Kinabalu International Airport, my responsibilities include monitoring and forecasting the weather and issuing weather warnings for public and aviation purposes. I am also responsible for briefing disaster management committee members when weather-related disasters have occurred or are likely to occur, and to provide meteorological information for search and rescue operations.

Since Malaysia is located in a tropical zone and is surrounded by the sea, the most common disaster the country experiences is flooding, mostly during the northeast monsoon season (November to March). The state of Sabah, located on Borneo Island, also experiences heavy rain and flooding as a result of the tail-effect (outer-band) of tropical storms that pass over the Philippines toward the Asian continent. Malaysia is also prone to disasters like landslides, flash floods, haze (local and trans boundary) and forest fires.

I've been selected to be a visiting researcher at the ADRC for the January - June 2009 term. The Visiting Researcher Program is giving me an opportunity to share information and experiences with fellow ADRC member countries and to develop information networks related to disaster risk reduction. I would like to express my appreciation to the ADRC as well as to the government of Japan for offering me this opportunity. It is sure to enhance my knowledge and understanding of disasters, and thus to help me and my department to cooperate with other agencies in Malaysia to promote better ways of dealing with disasters in the future.

#### **For Inquiries & Subscription Information**

For more information or details regarding email subscriptions to this newsletter, please email [editor@adrc.asia](mailto:editor@adrc.asia).