



ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 198
September
2009

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● Human Resource Development

JICA Training on Disaster Management for Central Asia and the Caucasus

Under commission of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted a training course for disaster management officials from Central Asia and the Caucasus from 6 July to 7 August. The course, which was conducted in Russian, has been held six times since this program was initiated. The Central Asia and Caucasus regions frequently experience disasters such as floods, droughts, landslides, and earthquakes, which sometimes extend across several countries. Also, heavy snows in the winter can lead to flooding when mountain glaciers thaw in the warmer seasons. Thus, these regions have common concerns in terms of their disaster risk management.

A total of 12 central and local government officials participated in this training course. They represented eight countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan in Central Asia, and Azerbaijan and Armenia in the Caucasus.

The participants attended lectures and visited central and municipal government facilities, research institutes, a meteorological organization, a broadcasting company, a medical institution, a school, a wide-area disaster management base, private companies, and an NPO in order to comprehensively enhance their understanding of Japan's disaster management system, and the roles, expertise, and cooperative relationships among these organizations. They also participated in field activities such as "town watching" activities for hazard map creation, and field trips to project sites in the Shikoku Mountain Range where landslide and erosion control countermeasures are being implemented. They also visited the Hyogo Prefectural Emergency Management and Training Center. The participants spent four and half days formulating action plans using the Project Cycle Management (PCM) method. It is hoped that they will apply this method to various projects back in their home countries. This course also allowed the participants to reinforce their relationships with one another, thereby strengthening their disaster management information network in the region.

ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all of those who contributed to the success of this course.



● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

Ms. Josefina Tan Porcil from the Philippines

I am Josefina Tan Porcil from Quezon City, Philippines, and I am serving as a Visiting Researcher at ADRC for the term August to December 2009. I was a grade school teacher of English, mathematics, and science for four years before I started working for the Office of Civil Defense-National Disaster Coordinating

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Council (OCD-NDCC).

I have been working for the OCD-NDCC for nine years, and am now a Civil Defense Officer (CDO) assigned in the Planning Division. My division renders secretariat services to the NDCC and its various committees. I am currently serving as a Special Disbursing Officer in the "READY Project" or the "Hazards Mapping and Assessment for Effective Community-based Disaster Management" project. This project covers 27 vulnerable provinces in the Philippines and is being funded by the UNDP and AusAID. It is being implemented through partnerships with the NDCC, the Department of Science and Technology, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.



I am also a member of the Technical Working Group of the NDCC and am involved in a Department of Education Project with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the UNDP entitled "Phase II of Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Education and Development." This project receives funding and support from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).

As a CDO, I also serve as a staff duty officer two to three times a month at the Operations Center of the OCD-NDCC, which is staffed on a 24/7 basis for monitoring disaster events, coordinating response actions when needed, preparing disaster reports and updates, and relaying information to higher authorities.

I assist and support the OCD-Planning Division in all its activities, including the organization of workshops and seminars; the coordination of disaster risk reduction/disaster risk management projects with local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations; the monitoring of agency compliance with directives; and the preparation of necessary reports to various government agencies, private institutions, and other partner agencies.

Japan, as an independent, highly-industrialized nation, with its honest, nationalistic, loyal, and disciplined people has always amazed me. It is a model country with capable personnel and effective systems worthy of emulation by developing countries like the Philippines. I believe Japan's journey to success is an impressive and inspiring achievement to which any nation might aspire. I have always been interested in learning the "secret" to Japan's advanced and rapid development, its effective and strict implementation of rules, laws, and other management systems, and its best practices and experiences. I am fascinated to learn how the country and its competent leaders were able to manage and direct the nation and populace toward further development and progress.

Aside from studying Japan's disaster management system, I am particularly interested in learning more about its climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. Since the Philippines, as a developing country, is currently experiencing some of the worst effects of climate change, I believe that lessons from Japan could prove very useful for our future efforts in this area.

This is why I feel so honored to have been chosen as a Visiting Researcher for this term, and I am looking forward to taking full advantage of this valuable opportunity.

- More information on Disaster Management of the Philippines

<http://www.adrc.asia/nationinformation.php?NationCode=608&Lang=en&NationNum=14>

Mr. K.A.D.P.K. Kodippili from Sri Lanka

I am an Assistant Director of the Disaster Management Center (DMC) in Sri Lanka, and I would like to start by thanking ADRC for giving Sri Lanka this opportunity to improve its disaster risk reduction efforts. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe (Minister, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights), Prof. Rajeewa Wijesinghe (Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights), and Maj. Gen. Gamini Hettiarachchi (Director General, DMC) for giving me this opportunity to serve my motherland.

Sri Lanka is a small island with an area of 65,610 km². It has a tropical climate and is prone to floods,

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landslides, droughts, cyclones, and tsunamis. On 26 December 2004, Sri Lanka suffered a massive disaster, with a devastating tsunami decimating its southern, western, eastern and northern coastlines. A tsunami of this magnitude was unprecedented, and devastated two thirds of Sri Lanka's coastal belt. More than 35,000 lives were lost and 100,000 houses were destroyed in 13 districts along the coast. Approx. 5,000 people went missing. In May 2005, the government of Sri Lanka passed the Disaster Management Act (Act No. 13 of 2005). The National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM) was established pursuant to that act, and the DMC was established to serve as the lead disaster risk management agency under the NCDM responsible for implementing the NCDM's directives. In December 2005, the Ministry for Disaster Management was established.



The authorities listed above have performed their roles as disaster management agencies admirably, and have reduced the risk of disasters in Sri Lanka. The ADRC's visiting researcher program is a great opportunity for me to build on what has already been done and to gain extensive knowledge about disaster risk reduction. During my time here, I would like to learn about tsunami risk reduction, the disaster management system in Japan, early warning mechanisms, school preparedness plans and various disaster related activities, such as evacuation drills and hazard mapping. I also would like to study data analysis systems, get involved in various risk reduction activities, and visit many disaster related agencies. I was also a victim of the 2004 tsunami, and I experienced many hardships as a result of that disaster. I hope to help Sri Lanka become better prepared for all disasters through my service with the DMC.

I am confident that the knowledge I gain through ADRC's visiting researcher program will help my homeland create safer communities. Again, I am grateful to all who have been involved in affording me this valuable opportunity.

● More information on Disaster Management of Sri Lanka

<http://www.adrc.asia/nationinformation.php?NationCode=144&Lang=en&NationNum=08>

● Recent Natural Disasters in Asia

West Java Earthquake in Indonesia

On 2 September 2009, an earthquake of magnitude 7.3 on the Richter Scale struck Tasikmalaya District, West Java Province, Republic of Indonesia (GLIDE: TS-2009-000173-IDN). According to OCHA's situation report No. 5 released on 11 September, the death toll stands at 80, with 47 people still missing, 1,142 people injured and 186,637 people displaced (as reported by the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) of Indonesia). In addition, approx. 67,670 houses were severely damaged.

● Announcements

Mr. Masaru Arakida, ADRC Senior Researcher

My name is Masaru Arakida, and I just returned to Japan at the end of August. I have spent the past three years serving as a long-term expert for JICA, working in six Central American countries on the Project for Community Development and Community Disaster Prevention (known as the BOSAI Project). I hope to utilize my experiences in Central America to help further improve the disaster management capabilities of the Asian region. I look forward to your continued support in my and ADRC's efforts.

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