



# ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 202  
January  
2010



## Happy New Year 2010

### TOPICS

#### Happy New Year 2010

#### Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

International Forum on  
Tornado Disaster Risk  
Reduction for Bangladesh

#### Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

ASEAN Project: Capacity  
Building of Local  
Government Officials on  
Disaster Management

Fifteen years have passed since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake devastated the Hyogo region. In that time, many local residents and organizations have demonstrated a strong commitment to achieving a creative recovery in Hyogo, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my respect for all of their efforts. The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA), which was adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held on 18-22 January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo, has become the common guiding standard for all those working toward disaster risk reduction around the globe. People around the world have been making efforts, based on those principles, to build more disaster-resistant nations and communities. However, numerous disasters continue to plague Asia every year, and the frequency and severity of those disasters seems to be increasing rather than decreasing, taking rising toll on people's lives and property.

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) will hold the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2010 from 17 to 19 January, giving policymakers and practitioners from countries across Asia a chance to meet together and share their experiences, knowledge, and ideas so as to further promote the implementation of the HFA. All staff members of ADRC will do their utmost to ensure the safety and security of people in Asia throughout the coming year.

Atsushi Koresawa, Executive Director of ADRC

#### ●Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions International Forum on Tornado Disaster Risk Reduction for Bangladesh

ADRC actively participated in the International Forum on Tornado Disaster Risk Reduction held on 13-14 December 2009 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This event was organized jointly by the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management and the Ministry of Defense of Bangladesh, Tokyo Polytechnic University, the Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Center (BDPC), and the International Association of Wind Engineering.



Bangladesh is known as a country prone to various natural hazards,

#### 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 2010

**Continued**

including cyclones, floods, and storm surges. Tornadoes occur almost every year, often resulting in extensive casualties and damage. Recently, for example, the 1996 tornado in Tangail killed about 700 people. Despite such devastating consequences, adequate tornado preparedness measures are still lacking, with efforts still needed in the areas of early warning systems and evacuation shelters. This forum was therefore held to raise awareness among policymakers, practitioners, and civil society of the risks posed by tornadoes and other severe local storms, as well as to promote the development of strategies for mitigating future disaster risks.

During the forum, ADRC gave two presentations on “Governance and Policy Making” and “Public Awareness and Education.” ADRC presented a wide range of issues concerning the progress made toward the HFA, as well as the remaining challenges, and highlighted the roles that awareness-raising efforts and education should play in Bangladesh. The presentations also summarized the ADRC's relevant activities in Bangladesh in the past.

For more details on the forum, please visit the website ([http://www.iawe.org/WRDRR\\_Bangladesh/](http://www.iawe.org/WRDRR_Bangladesh/)).

**● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries****ASEAN Project: Capacity Building of Local Government Officials on Disaster Management**

ADRC and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) of Lao PDR jointly organized a workshop for local government officials in Luangnamtha province on 21-22 December 2009. Some 30 provincial officials in the field of disaster reduction participated in the workshop together with three officials from the NDMO and one from ADRC.

This workshop was part of the ASEAN Project: Capacity Building of Local Government Officials on Disaster Management, and was the third to be held in Lao PDR, following those held in Vientiane and Bolikhamxay provinces.

During the two-day workshop, local officials attended lectures on disasters and risks, the legal framework for national and provincial disaster risk management, risk assessment, and flood management based on the subjects taught to lecturers during a Training-of-Trainers (TOT) program held in June 2009. Owing to the assistance of the NDMO and provincial officials, the trainers gave instructive and interactive lectures, fostering active discussions and fruitful feedback.

ADRC hopes that the outcomes of this project will be shared in other provinces and will contribute to the capacity development of local officials in disaster management throughout the country. Similar workshops for local government officials are scheduled for early 2010 in Cambodia and Vietnam.

**For Inquiries & Subscription Information**

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