



# ADRC Highlights

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### Asian Disaster Reduction Center

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## ● Human Resource Development

### Training Course: “Comprehensive Disaster Management for Central Asia and the Caucasus”

ADRC conducted a training course for disaster management officials from Central Asia and the Caucasus from 5 July to 7 August with sponsorship from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The course, which was conducted in Russian, has been held seven times since this program was launched. This course was attended by a total of eight central and local government officials representing five countries: Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan in Central Asia, and Georgia and Armenia in the Caucasus.

Central Asia and the Caucasus regions frequently experience disasters such as floods, droughts, landslides, and earthquakes, some of which 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 disaster risk management.

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 such locations as Sayo Town in Hyogo Prefecture, which experienced severe flooding in 2009, and sites in the Shikoku Mountain Range where landslide and erosion control countermeasures are being implemented. In addition, the participants spent four and a half days formulating action plans using the Project Cycle Management (PCM) method.

It is hoped that the participants will make good use of the knowledge, technologies, and methods they learned from the training course to implement various projects and help strengthen the disaster management systems in their home countries. This course also allowed participants to reinforce their relationships with one another, thereby strengthening their disaster management information networks in the region.

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



[Field visit to Sayo Town]

## ● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

### Ms. Carmelita Laverinto (Philippines)

I am Carmelita Laverinto, and I am from the Philippines. I am a certified public accountant by profession. I joined the government service in 2002, when I took a position with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD). At present, I am working as a Special Disbursing/Planning and Budget Officer in the OCD Regional Center 3 (OCDR3), and thus my area of responsibility is the Central Luzon Region. I am in charge of all financial transactions relating to personnel services (PS), the maintenance of other operating expenses (MOOE), the quick response fund (QRF), and the trust fund (TF) of OCD Regional Center 3. In addition to my work, I provide assistance in the preparation and conduct of training and seminars/workshops on disaster risk management and contingency planning, to different local government units (at the provincial, city, municipal, and barangay (neighborhood) levels) as well as the conduct of earthquake drills in schools. I also assist in the coordination and conduct of Regional/Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (R/PDCC) meetings and other activities relating to disaster management within my area of responsibility.



The Philippines is considered to be one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Its location makes it vulnerable to a variety of natural disasters. Lying along the western rim of the Pacific and along the circum-pacific seismic belt, it is subject to storms, typhoons, earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, droughts, and other natural hazards. Disasters are a serious threat to both people and property, particularly in densely populated areas. At least 60% of the total land area of the country is exposed to multiple hazards, and as a result 74% of its population is vulnerable.

The Central Luzon Region is one of the most dynamic regions in the Philippines. Located at a crossroads in the Asia-Pacific region, it serves as a gateway for European and American enterprises wanting to penetrate Asia. Central Luzon contains the largest plain in the country, earning it the name “the rice bowl of the Philippines.” The region is comprised of seven provinces (Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales) with thirteen (13) cities and 116 municipalities. Central Luzon is especially prone to typhoons and flooding.

The Office of Civil Defense Region 3 serves as the secretariat and operating arm of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council in Central Luzon. It has the primary task of coordinating the activities and functions of various government agencies and organizations, private institutions, and civic organizations at the regional level, for the protection and preservation of life and property during emergencies.

The ADRC’s Visiting Researcher (VR) Program is a great opportunity for conducting research on disaster reduction. The sharing of information and experiences with fellow ADRC member will give me an opportunity to help develop a strategic approach to the promotion of safer communities. For these reasons and more, I am impressed with the program and I am delighted and honored to have been chosen to serve as a visiting researcher. The experiences I have had during my stay have been tremendously helpful. Japan has achieved an amazing level of development, and is implementing an impressive portfolio of mitigation and preparedness measures. Looking around, one can readily see the care and commitment of Japan’s local communities and government agencies to protecting its environment, forests, water supply, air quality, and surroundings. Japanese governance is impressive indeed. Japan’s disaster risk reduction plans, programs, development projects, and efforts to build a resilient community

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are exemplary of good government leadership.

In this regard, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the government of Japan and the ADRC, both its management and staff, for all the support that has been extended to me and to the Philippines, and for allowing me to have such a fruitful experience in Japan.

## **● Participation in International Conferences**

### **ISDR Asian Partnership Meeting (Preparations for the 4th AMCDRR)**

ADRC representatives attended the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) Meeting held from 11 to 13 August 2010 in Incheon, Republic of Korea. The meeting was organized to speed up the preparations for the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) scheduled for 25-28 October 2010 at Songdo Convensia in Incheon. The main themes, procedures, and expected outcomes of the 4th AMCDRR were among the key items discussed at the meeting. A progress report was given on the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and the reporting methods of the HFA Monitor were explained by UNISDR.



The ADRC has been actively involved in drafting outcome documents, and will be chairing the first of the three Technical Sessions, "Raising Awareness and Building Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)" at the 4th AMCDRR. ADRC Director Atsushi Koresawa gave a presentation on the topics to be covered during this session. In addition to coordinating the organizations that will give presentations during the first session, the ADRC has been actively involved in preparing the outcome documents for this event, including an Incheon Declaration, Road Map, and action plan. The ADRC is also currently planning several side events on such topics as the "Incorporation of Space-Based Information to Support DRR and CCA," the International Recovery Platform (IRP), and the First Asian Film Festival on Disaster Risk Reduction (AFFDRR).

As discussed at the preparatory meeting, the ADRC will continue its preparations for the Technical Session and side events.

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