



ADRC Highlights

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TOPICS

Promotion Cooperation with Member Countries

ASEAN Project

- ¶ Promotion of Disaster Education in Schools
- ¶ Capacity Building of Local Government Officials in Disaster Management
- ¶ Promotion of Satellite Imagery Application to Disaster Management
- ¶ Development of an Online, GLIDE-associated Disaster Database

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● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

Since March of 2008, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) has been conducting four kinds of projects aimed at building the capacity of ASEAN member countries with financial support from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund. It has already been two years since these projects were started. Here, we describe and report on the latest activities of each project.

Promotion of Disaster Education in Schools

Project Description

School education is widely known as one of the most effective ways to utilize lessons learned from past events and also as an effective long-term strategy for preventing the recurrence of tragedies. This project aims to promote disaster education by providing consultation about teaching materials and know-how tailored to each country's context.

Recent Activities

On 19 October 2010, ADRC held the First Coordination Meeting for the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund Project "Promotion of Disaster Education in Schools" in collaboration with the Ministry of Education of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The meeting included a presentation of the project outline and a report on the current status of disaster education in Laos. The Ministry of Education explained that many kinds of natural disasters occur every year, including typhoons, floods, and fires.

A lot of materials have already been developed, and they can be effectively utilized for this project's activities. As a next step, teaching materials will be drafted for the Training of Pilot Program Teachers.



Capacity Building of Local Government Officials in Disaster Management

Project Description

Since local government officials play a critical role in response, recovery, reconstruction, mitigation, and preparedness related to disasters, strengthening their capacity in disaster management is a pressing issue for the sustainable national development. This project provides an opportunity for those officials to improve their disaster knowledge and coping skills.

Continued

Recent Activities

The project aims at increasing the resilience of local government officials who play critical roles in every phase of disaster risk management (DRM). Both the ADRC and various DRM organizations have been cooperating with the activities, which are comprised of developing a training module and materials, and holding trainings of trainers and local official workshops during the 20-month project period in each country.

Thailand's Department of Disaster Prevention and Management (DDPM), which is part of the Ministry of Interior, and ADRC kicked off the project in April 2009, developing a training module focusing on risk management for tsunamis, floods and landslides, with consideration for that country's particular training needs. After selecting the target provinces of Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen, and Songkla, a training of trainers was conducted in Bangkok in February 2010. It was attended by ten government officials from the provinces. The participants of the training then gave presentations at workshops for local officials in July and August in the three provinces. These were attended by more than 100 local officials, marking the successful completion of the project in Thailand.

In Thailand, as well as in the other countries that implemented workshops, the local officials actively participated in the activities and called for the continuation of such training efforts.



Promotion of Satellite Imagery Application to Disaster Management

Project Description

When large-scale natural disasters occur, satellite images are an effective tool for facilitating recovery and investigation efforts in the affected areas. This project aims to promote the use of satellite imagery of disaster-affected areas for the purposes of disaster mitigation and disaster risk management by enhancing the skills of government officials in those areas.

Recent Activities

ADRC conducted the program "Capacity Building of Utilization of Satellite Images for Disaster Management" in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 17– 23 October, in cooperation with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). This program consisted of one day of lectures and five days of training, both aimed at promoting the utilization of space-based technologies. The theme of this project in Cambodia was drought. It was held in collaboration with the Cambodian Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning & Construction, Department of Geography. Satellite images have been utilized to implement emergency activities in Cambodia. However, engineers have insufficient experience in utilizing satellite data in this country. The capacity building of engineers in relevant fields is urgently needed.

ADRC will continue to cooperate with the Department of Geography and other relevant agencies to further promote the utilization of satellite data in the field of disaster management. ADRC also plans to conduct this program in other ASEAN countries.



Development of an Online, GLIDE-associated Disaster Database

Project Description

The project is comprised of the visiting researcher (VR) training program, GLIDE system enhancement work, and the development of an online disaster database with GLIDE numbers. The GLIDE-associated database will be used for disaster reduction and emergency response in each country and the good practices developed will be compiled by ADRC to be shared by among its members.

Latest Activity

ADRC will launch the online GLIDE-associated disaster database development project in fiscal year 2010 1 November. ADRC has been implementing the web-based GLIDE-associated disaster database development project in the ASEAN countries since 2008 with financial support from the Japan ASEAN Integration Fund. The objective of this project is to help all ASEAN countries develop their own national disaster databases with GLIDE numbers by inviting government officials in charge of disaster information in the ASEAN countries to undergo training at ADRC.

In 2010, the training program is scheduled for Cambodia, Indonesia, and Myanmar. On 11 October, ADRC held a meeting with the National Agency for Disaster Management Indonesia (BNPB) where there was discussion of Indonesia's national disaster database (DIBI: <http://dibi.bnpb.go.id/>) and agreement regarding cooperation with the GLIDE-associated disaster database development project.

The project will start from 1 November at ADRC with lectures on disaster risk reduction methods in various fields.



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