ADRC Highlights

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TOPICS

Asian Disaster Reduction Center

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● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

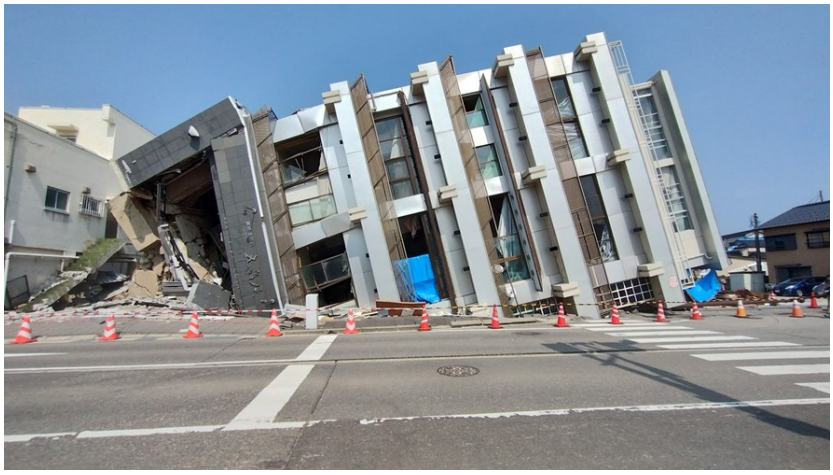
Survey Visit to Affected Areas of the Noto Peninsula Earthquake

Following the Noto Peninsula earthquake on 1 January 2024, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) had been reporting in English on the overview of the earthquake and summarizing the official information released by the national and local governments on the damages and responses (https://www.adrc.asia/publications/disaster_report/index.php). The report was kept updated until the end of February.

On 14-15 March 2024, two and a half months after the earthquake, ADRC researchers and visiting researchers from some of our Member countries visited the Noto Peninsula to inspect the damage caused by the earthquake and tsunami, and reviewed the ongoing reconstruction activities while pointing out the challenges. Road restoration work, which is key to facilitate evacuation, rescue, relief efforts, and restoration assistance, was underway, primarily on the "Noto-satoyama Kaido" that serves as arterial road. There were many areas where the road was damaged by landslides, mainly in mountainous areas, and only one lane was being temporarily restored to allow traffic. Road surfaces were damaged in many places and hillsides and mountainsides were only temporarily restored by piling up sandbags. This means that full restoration is still expected to take a considerable amount of time. We could also observe that police forces from prefectures of other regions such as Kansai, Kanto, Tohoku, and Hokkaido were providing traffic control and other support activities.

Many traditional wooden houses collapsed in the affected central area, including Wajima and Suzu cities. Although the visiting researchers are not familiar with the Japanese architectural style of wooden houses with tiled roofs, they could tell that the heavy tiled roofs caused much of the damage. They discussed their opinions for promoting measures to strengthen the earthquake resistance of such traditional houses.

In Wajima City, the participants observed the Asaichi Street, where a fire spread and a seven-story building collapsed nearby. We are confronting many issues, such as disaster reduction measures in areas where wooden houses are densely built and firefighting measures in the event of an earthquake and tsunami. In view of this, foreign visiting researchers compared the buildings and urban development in other countries, such as comparing the 2001 Gujarat earthquake in India and the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake in Japan.



Collapse of a 7-story reinforced concrete building (Wajima City)

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In many areas where liquefaction had occurred, manholes were raised and utility poles were tilted. Even in Uchinada Town, which is located more than 100 km away from the epicentre, many houses were found to be tilted.

The participants also observed the fishing port in Wajima City, which was rendered unusable due to ground upheaval, and the tsunami damage in Suzu City. Furthermore, they observed the recovery support activities, such as the use of "Emergency Safety Evaluation" sheet (green, yellow, and red) to assess the emergency danger level of houses, water supply trucks, kitchen cars, emergency medical cars, and temporary housing construction, to gain knowledge on future DRR measures in different countries.

● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

Mr Chander Kant (India)

My name is Chander Kant, and I am a Project Expert - Flood Control at the State Disaster Management Authority of Uttar Pradesh, India. I am honoured to be participating in the Visiting Researcher Program at ADRC Japan. I possess a Master's degree in Disaster Management and a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, and I have extensive experience working in the field of disaster management. Throughout my career, I have played a key role in various impactful projects, including:

- Operationalization of CAP SACHET integrated alert portal at the state level.
- Leading state-level flood reporting and preparedness activities
- Contributing to the establishment of the Integrated State Emergency Operation Center
- Actively participating in the development of the "RAHAT App" for public incident reporting
- COVID-19 response coordination
- And coordinate Rescue and Relief operations as State representative during the Uttarakhand Glacier Lake Outburst in 2021

I have been actively involved in the development of the "RAHAT App" for public incident reporting. I also served as a member of the Government of India's IMCT team, conducting inspections in flood-affected districts.

India, with its distinct geo-climatic and socio-economic conditions, is susceptible to a variety of natural and human-induced disasters, including floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes, landslides, avalanches, and forest fires. The increasing frequency and intensity of hydro-meteorological disasters, along with a rise in human-induced disasters like accidents, have brought disaster risk reduction and management into sharp focus in the country.

On the other hand, Japan frequently experiences natural disasters such as typhoons, torrential rains, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis due to its geographical, topographical, and meteorological conditions. The country has made substantial advancements in disaster management systems, national land conservation, weather forecasting technologies, and disaster information communication systems. The reduction in disaster damage in Japan is a testament to its society's effective response and vulnerability mitigation capabilities.

During my stay in Japan, I am eager to learn about the Japanese disaster management system, particularly the Integration of DRR into Urban Planning and Infrastructure Development. I am confident that the knowledge and skills I acquire through this program will be applicable in relevant fields of practice in India. I am deeply grateful to ADRC and the Government of India for the opportunity to participate in the Visiting Researcher Program.

Ms Vu Thuy Duong (Viet Nam)

My name is (Ms) Vu Thuy Duong. I am an official from Viet Nam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority (VDDMA), under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

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As a member of the Department of Science, Technology, and International Cooperation at VDDMA, my responsibilities include disseminating information about risk and disaster events in Viet Nam and globally. Through VDDMA's websites and social media channels, we communicate timely updates, including situation reports and damage infographics. Notably, during the historic natural disaster in Vietnam's Central region in 2020, VDDMA successfully mobilized support from international organisations, resulting in an impressive total of USD 25 million. We expressed our appreciation by widely acknowledging the assistance provided by our international partners in our communication platforms.

Participating in the ADRC Visiting Researcher Program has provided me with valuable insights into the disaster management system and the unwavering commitment of Japanese citizens in combating natural disasters. What truly stands out is the engagement of the community in disaster risk reduction, particularly through capacity-building initiatives and awareness-raising events that I actively participated in during my visit. These experiences have enriched my knowledge, and I aspire to apply the lessons and initiatives learnt here to enhance my work in Viet Nam.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to ADRC and VDDMA for providing me with this invaluable learning opportunity. I would also like to extend my thanks to ADRC colleagues and my fellow 2023 visiting researchers who have been supporting me and making my time in Japan truly memorable.

● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program: Malaysia "LEP 2.0 Enhancement of the Disaster Risk Management Capacity of the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA)" Countermeasures against Flood Control

From 26 February to 8 March 2024, ADRC conducted the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program: Malaysia "LEP 2.0 Enhancement of the Disaster Risk Management Capacity of the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA)" Countermeasures against Flood Control. The course, targeting flood countermeasures, aimed to deepen understanding of river planning, and relevant policies and practices. Participants also worked on developing action plans for improving flood control projects and for accelerating disaster investment in Malaysia. A total of 15 participants from the National Disaster Management Agency and other relevant organisations attended lectures and visited sites related to urban flooding countermeasures in Japan and learnt its background and policies.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all the organisations for their cooperation in conducting the training.

Site visit on Nippa Suehiro Trunk Line (Yokohama City)

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