2-1-1. Expanding membership of ADRC

Researchers of ADRC visited the Ministry of Ecology and Emergency Situation of the Kyrgyz Republic in May 2002, and explained the objective and activities of ADRC. As a result, Kyrgyz (the Minister of Ecology and Emergency Situation) expressed their intention to join ADRC. Kyrgyz was welcomed to ADRC as the 24th member country with the consent of all the other member countries.

(Note) Kyrgyz

Became an independent country in August 1991. It covers an area of 198,500 square kilometers and has a population of 4.91 million (as of 2001). The country is located in the Northwest of Tian Shan. Kyrgyz suffers from natural disasters such as earthquakes (a severe earthquake occurred in August 1992 in the border area of China), landslides and floods caused by snow thaws in Spring.

2-1-2. Countries Visited by ADRC

1) Uzbekistan

ADRC sent staff to visit Uzbekistan's, Ministry of Emergency Situation, which is the counterpart of ADRC, in May 2002. Information including the disaster reduction programs implemented by the government and the role of the Emergency Response Agency was provided by Uzbekistan. Opinions were exchanged and it was discussed to hold a seminar for disaster management officers (in the Russian language) in Japan.

2) Kyrgyz

As aforementioned, ADRC researchers visited the Ministry of Ecology and Emergency Situation of the Kyrgyz Republic in May 2002 to promote ADRC and to encourage Kyrgyz to join. Information regarding the situation of natural disasters and disaster reduction programs of the government was provided by Kyrgyz. A letter stating the intention to join ADRC was submitted from the Minister via the ADRC researchers.

3) Iran

ADRC staff visited Iran from the end of July to the first week of August 2002, during which they observed the aftermath (Northwestern area of Iran) from the earthquake that occurred on the morning of June 22, 2002 and exchanged information with Iran's disaster management organizations (International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology, National Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction (Ministry of Interior), administrative office of Qazvin state, Red Crescent Society of the Isramic Republic of Iran and Center for Earthquake Environmental Studies of Teheran (EST).

Staff from Iran Housing Corporation and Iran Red Crescent Society visited ADRC in September and December 2002 respectively, for information exchange about disaster reduction activities.

4) Pakistan

ADRC staff visited the Emergency Relief Cell of Pakistan in March 2003. Information regarding the disaster management system/programs implemented by the government of Pakistan and previous disaster damage was provided to the ADRC staff. ADRC provided information concerning the activities and requirements for joining ADRC to the government of Pakistan.

2-1-3. Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2003

At the mid-term review of the United Nations International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR, 1990-99), the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, held in Yokohama in 1994, the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action was adopted by the participants, which has served as the international blueprint for disaster reduction. The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) is the successor arrangement to IDNDR and the ISDR Secretariat has initiated the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action to be completed in 2004, ten years after the adoption of the strategy.

ADRC co-organized the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2003 in January 15-17, 2003 in Kobe with the ISDR Secretariat, Cabinet Office, Hyogo Prefecture and Disaster Reduction Alliance. The Conference consisted of the 5th ADRC International Meeting, the 2nd ISDR Asian Meeting and the Symposium entitled "Coping with the Earth: towards

disaster-resilient society". The Conference aimed to contribute to the UN effort in formulating a new disaster reduction program and course of action for the 21st century. The outcomes of the Conference are to be reflected in a number of international and regional events planned in 2003/2004 and the final consolidating event in January 2005 to be held in Kobe, which is expected to indicate the guidelines for a long-term program of action.

For further information on the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2003, please refer to the Summary Report and CD-ROM "Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2003" published in March 2003 by ADRC. A copy of the report as well as the CD-ROM is available upon request.

2-1-3-1. Outline of the 5th ADRC International Meeting

The 5th ADRC International Meeting is described below.

1) Date: January 15 (Wed) – 16 (Thurs), 2003
2) Organizer: Asian Disaster Reduction Center
3) Participants: 42 government officials from 24 member countries, representatives of 21 international organizations and others
4) Place: International Conference Center, Kobe, Japan

1. Technical Sessions (English only)

Session I : Holistic Approach to Disaster Reduction – Total Disaster Risk Management

"Objectives and Strategies for Implementation of the TDRM Approach"

10:40 - 12:30 Wednesday, January 15, 2003 Venue: Room 401/402

The Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) approach was jointly developed by ADRC and OCHA/ADRU Kobe, based on the gains of IDNDR and ISDR and with the support from the ASEAN Foundation and the Japanese Government, to strengthen capacity in disaster reduction among member countries, and has been promoted also by ADPC, WHO, and other organizations. The TDRM approach looks at the entire cycle of disasters and involves all sectors of societies and communities in disaster management, and encourages partnership to reduce risk and vulnerability to natural hazards. In this session, participants were informed of the basic concept of TDRM as well as its strategies for implementation. Best practices in different countries in line with the TDRM concept were reported as well. Participants shared the specific image of TDRM through those examples, and the gaps to be filled were identified.

Coordinator: Mr. Terje Skavdal, RDRA, UN-OCHA/ ADRU Kobe
Rapporteur: Ms. Elma Aldea, Deputy Administrator, OCD, Philippines
Speakers:

- Mr. Emmanuel de Guzman, Consultant of ADRC and OCHA Kobe, Alliance for Emergency Response Training, Inc, "Achieving A Holistic Approach to Disaster Reduction Through TDRM: Objectives and Strategies for Implementation"
- Dr. Markus Zimmermann, Consultant for Disaster Reduction, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland, "Integrated Approach for Disaster Reduction in Switzerland: Strategy and Implementation"
- Dr. Masashi Nagata, Head of National Typhoon Center, Japan Meteorological Agency, Japan, "Prediction of Meteorological Phenomena and Information for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness"
- Mr. Veasna Bun, Programme Officer, Mekong River Commission, "Integrated Flood Management in the Lower Mekong Basin"
- Mr. Shunsuke Mutai, Director of Disaster Management Division, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Japan, "Voluntary Fire Corps and Voluntary Disaster Prevention Groups"
- Ms. Elma Aldea, Deputy Administrator, OCD, Philippines, "Comprehensive, All Hazards, Multi-Agency and Multi-Sectoral Approach to Disaster Reduction In The Philippines"

Conclusion:

The session underscored the critical need for a holistic approach to disaster reduction through the Total Disaster Risk Management approach. In response to the growing prevalence of disaster risks in the region, the approach seeks to reduce risk and vulnerability to natural hazards by addressing identified gaps in the disaster reduction cycle and encouraging involvement of and collaboration among all sectors of societies and stakeholders to achieve effective disaster reduction. The approach which builds on the gains of IDNDR and ISDR shares five component strategies for achieving a holistic approach, i.e. (1) multilevel, multidimensional and multidisciplinary collaboration and cooperation; (2) decision-making based on reliable disaster risk information from hazard mapping, risk and vulnerability assessments; (3) good communication and efficient exchange of reliable information; (4 enabling mechanisms; and (5) the disaster risk management process.

The presentations cited the impact of natural disasters and the various disaster reduction initiatives underway in Switzerland, Japan, Indochina, and the Philippines, which are in consonance with TDRM strategies. These included hazard mapping and vulnerability assessments, coordination in flood mitigation and control, enhancement of early warning systems, capacity building of national focal points and community-based organizations, planning and legislation, and volunteerism for disaster reduction activities. The presentations emphasized disaster reduction as a long-term development concern and the need to sustain the momentum of disaster reduction initiatives and ensure their effective implementation through a holistic approach.

Session II : Holistic Approach to Disaster Reduction - Total Disaster Risk Management

"Government – NGO Collaboration for Disaster Reduction and Response"

13:30 - 15:20 Wednesday, January 15, 2003 Venue: Room 401/402

Successful disaster reduction strategies involve careful efforts to combine knowledge, technology, expertise, institutional capacities, management skills, and practical experience for optimum results. They would not be possible without proper collaboration between the two key players: government and civil society. As one of the steps to promote the collaboration among the players, the ADRC and the OCHA/ADRU established a collaborative network "Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN)" among emerging NGOs to have played active role for disaster reduction in Asia as a successful outcome of the workshop held in February 2002.

In the session, the experiences and best practices of the inter-sectoral collaboration for disaster reduction initiatives in different countries were introduced. The problems to be solved for establishing intense collaboration among all the sectors, such as governments, NGOs, private sector, media, and the strategies for strengthening partnerships to address the challenges were discussed.

To ensure effective and sustainable collaboration and cooperation among various stakeholders, political will and legal frameworks for coordination, clearly defined roles, reliability and mutual trust, and proper recognition of contribution were identified as the essential factors.

Coordinator: Mr. Emmanuel de Guzman, Vice President & Chief Executive Officer, Alliance for Emergency Response Training, Inc.

Rapporteur: Ms. Takako Izumi, Associate Humanitarian Affairs Officer, UN-OCHA/ADRU

Speakers:

- Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Executive Director, ADRC, "The Crucial Role of Non-Governmental Sectors for Disaster Reduction and Response"
- Ms. Ang Siok Hui, Director, Singapore International Foundation, "Government-NGO Collaboration in Disaster Response – a Singapore Experience"
- Mr. Hitoshi Motegi, Manager, The Tokio Marine Risk Consulting Co., Ltd., "Disaster Prevention by Joint Cooperation between Enterprises and Local Authorities"

- Mr. Nhim Vanda, Senior Minister & First Vice President, National Committee for Disaster Management, Cambodia "Cooperation and Coordination between the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) and United Nations Agencies/International Organizations (IOs) and Non-governmental Organizations"
- Mr. Nimal D. Hettiarachichi, Director, National Disaster Management Centre, Sri Lanka, "Government-NGO Collaboration for Disaster Reduction and Response"
- Mr. Richard Grove-Hills, Head of Regional Delegation Beijing, IFRC, "Government-NGO Collaboration for Disaster Reduction and Response"
- Mr. Hiroshi Oe, Chief Director, Yokohama YMCA
- Mr. Thomas Brennan, Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor, UNDP BCPR Bangkok

Conclusion:

Overall, during the session II on 15 January, it was stressed in the presentations that focus should be placed on disaster risk reduction as well as relief assistance. For more effective disaster reduction, numerous sectors should be involved in the activities to fill in the gaps in the disaster reduction cycle. Networking among governments, NGOs, regional/international organizations, communities, and corporations is essential in achieving a holistic approach to disaster reduction. Networking can facilitate investment and also information sharing, best practices, expertise, volunteers and critical resources for disaster reduction activities such as an early warning system, flood control and relief operations.

For successful cooperation among all the sectors, the following factors are essential: multi-sectoral coordination at all the phases among all the sectors and partnerships; involvement of corporations and local communities in disaster reduction and response; a legal framework for coordination within the government structure, NGO and internal communities; clear definition of the roles of the government and NGOs; and a broader risk reduction/management agenda. In addition, political will (government's commitment), a legal framework, better coordination and recognition of NGOs will be required in order to sustain the partnership among NGOs, governments, regional/international organizations.

Session III : Holistic Approach to Disaster Reduction - Total Disaster Risk Management

"Accumulation and Sharing of Disaster Information and Impact Assessments: by Use of GLIDE (GLobal unique disaster IDEntifier number)"

15:40 - 17:30 Wednesday, January 15, 2003 Venue: Room 401/402

At present, numerous organizations operate their own disaster databases and open them to the public through their web sites. Also, when a new disaster occurs, it is being reported on the web not only by the organizations of the affected country, but also by various organizations and mass media in other countries. However, in searching disaster information on the Internet, the following problems exist: (1) It is necessary to search the database of each organization individually in every disaster occurrence; (2) In some cases, it is impossible to find the relevant data by search engine because each organization uses different name for the same disaster; (3) The linkages to the information of the other organization are not automatically updated with the change of the structure of database and website in each organization. GLIDE (GLobal unique disaster IDEntifier number) has been devised to overcome these problems by assigning unique ID codes, so that information related to a particular disaster can always be referenced with a unique ID code.

The session was intended as an introductory guide to GLIDE, and as a means to facilitate discussion on the GLIDE concept, as well as to seek ideas on how the common agreement among various data owners of GLIDE could be turned into practical applications to be shared by database managers.

Coordinator: Mr. Kamal Kishore, Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor, UNDP BCPR Delhi
Rapporteur: Mr. Shuichi Odaka, Information Manager, OCHA/ReliefWeb/Kobe
Speakers:

- Dr. Hector Babayan, Vice-President of NSSP, Armenia, "Structure and organizations of the Disaster Information System (DIS/Earthquake) of Armenia"

- Dr. Dugkeun Park, Senior Analyst, National Institute for Disaster Prevention, Korea, "The Current Disaster Classification in Korea and Future Direction with GLIDE"
- Mr. Katsuhiro Abe, Chief of Tropical Cyclone Programme Division, WMO, "The Name of Tropical Cyclone"
- Mr. Masaru Arakida, Senior Researcher, ADRC, "The Concept of GLIDE (GLobal unique disaster IDEntifier number) and Goal for Disaster Management"
- Mr. Kamal Kishore, Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor, UNDP BCPR Delhi, "Improving the Quality, Coverage and Accuracy of Disaster Data: A Comparative Analysis of Global and National Datasets"
- Mr. Julio Serge, Founder Member –Technical Architect, LaRED, "The use of Disaster Inventories as part of the Risk Mitigation Process"
- Mr. Shuichi Odaka, Information Manager, OCHA/ReliefWeb/Kobe, "Humanitarian information management and exchange"
- Mr. Masahiko Murata, Project Manager, DRI, "Effective information sharing by use of GLIDE in JAPAN"

Conclusion:

The session took stock of existing initiatives in the development of disaster databases and discussed the potential of GLIDE as an enabling standard for sharing of data. Based on the overarching principle that disaster information management was a tool to support holistic decision-making from damage estimation, response and recovery to analysis, it was generally recognized that the GLIDE concept as a shared standard was sound, and merited further refinement for wider acceptance. Key challenges were recognized in areas related to the implementation of the GLIDE scheme itself, as well as the gaps between existing disaster databases particularly in relation to those dealing with large-scale and small and medium-scale disasters, and the fundamental issue of reliability and accessibility of data itself.

On the GLIDE scheme itself, there was a wide acceptance of the concept and a will to improve the mechanism to enable the system to act as an effective universal standard. The questions related to complex disasters and how cause/effect relationships should be encoded in GLIDE was clearly recognized as an important issue that required further consideration.

Analysis of large-scale and small to medium-scale disaster databases led to the recognition of issues of common methodology, criteria and standardization of data. One of the testing questions was to what extent data should be disaggregated, and suggested the need for hierarchical disaster events. It was recognized that a clear intention on the purpose of data should guide the methodology of complementary and systematic compilation of data, supported by a multi-tiered system.

Issues related to the reliability of data and accessibility were repeatedly raised, reflecting the fundamental importance of the issue. In addition to the existence of contradictory datasets, political imperatives in disaster situations could also affect the accuracy of data, undermining the efforts to improve early warning systems based on historical data. One of the steps being taken was ISDR's initiative to take stock of existing national datasets, which would be feed back to EM-DAT to contribute to reliability of available datasets.

2. Meeting of the ADRC Members Countries (English only)

9:00 - 12:00 Thursday, January 16, 2003 Venue: Room 401/402

The meeting provided with an opportunity to introduce the new member country, Kyrgyz, which joined ADRC in July 2002. A representative of Kyrgyz addressed its appreciation to be a member of ADRC and its willingness to cooperate with other member countries in promoting disaster reduction activities.

ADRC presented the activities carried out in 2002 in cooperation with member countries, the financial report for 2002, and the work plan for 2003, all of which were supported by the member countries. ADRC also took the opportunity to propose the "Articles of ADRC" in order to establish a clearer structural framework as well as to clarify the roles of member countries and advisor countries. ADRC was established in July 1998, based on the agreement (Chairperson's Summary of June 17, 1997) concluded at the Asian Disaster-Reduction Cooperation Promotion Meeting held on June 16–17, 1997. The necessity to reformat the agreement in the form of the "Articles of ADRC" derived mainly from the expansion of

ADRC's activities and membership, such as the inclusion of Armenia and Kyrgyz as member countries in 2000 and 2002 respectively. The proposed articles were unanimously approved at the meeting. Based on the newly adopted articles, Prof. Shigeru Itoh was re-elected as the Chairman of ADRC.

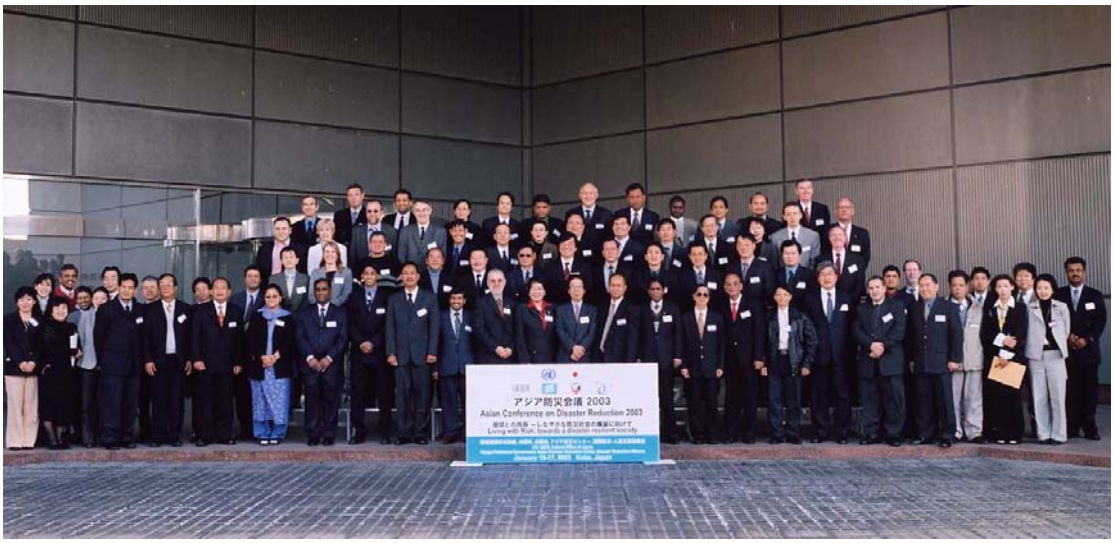

Fig. 2-1-3-1 Participants of the 5th ADRC International Meeting

2-1-3-2. Outline of the 2nd United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) Asian Meeting

The 2nd ISDR Asian Meeting is described below.

1) Date: January 16 (Thurs) – 17 (Fri), 2003
2) Organizers: UN/ISDR and Cabinet Office, Government of Japan
3) Participants: 42 government officials from 24 member countries, representatives of 21 international organizations and others
4) Place: International Conference Center, Kobe, Japan

1. Panel Discussion in Contribution to the Ten-Year Review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action (English and Japanese)

9:00 - 11:00 Friday, January 17, 2003 Venue: Room 301

On the occasion of the 1994 mid-term review of the IDNDR (International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction), the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction was held in Yokohama. Since then, the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action, unanimously adopted by the participants of the Conference, has served as the international blueprint for disaster reduction. Since 1994 the human and economic losses due to natural disasters have continued to increase despite efforts undertaken during the IDNDR and, later, under the umbrella of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the United Nations programme established in 2000 to follow on the IDNDR achievements.

The review of the Yokohama Strategy was endorsed by the General Assembly in December 2001 (resolution 56/195). The 2002 report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the ISDR (57/190) recommends in its paragraph 61 that: "The Secretariat for the Strategy should begin, in collaboration with Governments, agencies and other entities concerned, a full review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action. This review process will help identify gaps and means of implementation in a way that will chart the course of action for the forthcoming decade, while taking into account the outcome of the World summit on Sustainable Development."

The purpose of the panel discussion was to examine and assess progress in the field of disaster risk reduction, focusing on Asia and using the Yokohama Strategy as a threshold. There

are many initiatives already underway in the region with the aim to assess and improve capacities to manage and reduce disaster risk at different levels and themes, which all are valuable and need to be articulated. This particular conference represents an opportunity to jointly discuss ways forward to consolidate the regional review and the partnerships to do it.

The discussion contributed to shaping a comprehensive and coordinated approach to an assessment process in Asia to fulfill this purpose. The publication of "Living with Risk- A global review of disaster reduction initiatives" prepared by the ISDR Secretariat, with support from many Governments, experts, and regional agencies, constitutes a tool for orientating a substantive process to monitor disaster reduction, based on agreed targets that need to be developed, and a very first step to initiate the review of the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and to suggest further action.

Fig. 2-1-3-2 Panel Discussion at the 2nd ISDR Asian Meeting

Coordinators: Mr. Salvano Briceno, Director, ISDR Secretariat and Mr. Katsuhiko Hara, Director for Disaster Preparedness, Cabinet Office

Rapporteurs: Dr. Feng Min Kan, Senior Regional Officer and Ms. Helena Molin Valdes, Policy Officer, ISDR Secretariat

Panelists:

- Dr. Patrick Safran, Planning and Policy Officer, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Mr. Loy Rego, Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)
- Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Executive Director, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)
- Dr. Hiroyuki Kameda, Director, Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Research Center (EDM)/National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED), Japan
- Mr. Thomas Brennan, Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Dr. Badaoui Rouhban, Chief, Section of Engineering and Technology, UNESCO
- Mr. Toshiyasu Noda, Director for Asia & the Pacific, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
- Dr. Jerry Velasquez, Coordinator, United Nations University (UNU)

Conclusion:

The session offered a first opportunity to discuss ways forward in Asia on the issues and modalities for the review of the implementation of disaster reduction since the adoption of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action. It will build on the progress made since the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. It provided for launch of ideas and exchange information on achievements and challenges, as well as needs and ways forward.

Achievements

Panelists agreed that some progress have been made at national and regional, in particular in the last three years. The following areas were highlighted:

- Increased general awareness about the need to integrate disaster risk reduction as part of sustainable development (examples: results of WSSD, Millennium Development Goals)
- Establishment of national disaster management institutions, including arrangements from national to village level, in each of the Asian countries, with special institutes for disaster reduction in some cases (examples: China, Thailand, India), as well as international institutions (examples: UNDP, IBRD and ADB)
- Development of national disaster reduction or preparedness plans; in some cases disaster reduction is integrated in national development plans (example: Vietnam)
- Increased cooperation and collaboration among regional and international organizations, and increased number of organization involved, in particular with development scope (examples: ICIMOD, ASEAN, ESCAP)
- Growing sub-regional initiatives for both political and technical cooperation including river basin management.
- Increased awareness of urban risks and implementation of urban risk assessment programs (Examples: AUDMP, GESI, RADIUS, EDM)
- ADB starts shifting its focus from only hardware assistance to social aspects
- Enhanced information exchange among NGOs, governments and regional organizations (example: ADRRN)
- Development of multi-donor coordinated programs, such as NDM partnership in Viet Nam and CDMP by World Bank
- A holistic approach (linking disaster reduction to response) recognized in the region (TDRM), emphasizing multi-sectoral and multi-level coordination.

Challenges

The complexity of the risk scenario and the understanding of disaster risk reduction as imperative for sustainable development remain a challenge, in particular regarding implementation.

- Development patterns need to ensure risk reduction and sustainability
- A massive change of attitudes, values and behavior that lead to a culture of prevention and sustainability remains a daunting task
- Development networks among all stakeholders and foster true multi-level and multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration – accepting differences
- Sustainability of national disaster reduction structures, currently often under resourced both financially and technically
- Donor, bank and national government investment continue to focus on post disaster relief and reconstruction, and limited investment in disaster reduction
- Little investments in safer housing, infrastructure and retrofitting
- Building capacities at all levels in the region
- Improving lending and grants facilities of Banks to facilitate risk assessments and prevention in development programs
- Factoring disaster risk reduction into climate change adaptation

The challenges identified in disaster risk reduction entail the urgency to address the following needs.

- Establishing a regional forum for information exchange and networking
- Sensitizing other sectors about disaster reduction
- Enhancing implementations of national policies
- Establishing mechanisms to monitor the policy implementation
- Educating and sensitizing the legislators and people in private sectors
- Strengthening disaster reduction in rural areas to enhance capacity by supporting community participation
- Linking climate vulnerability and change to disaster reduction
- Integrating disaster into sustainable development process, including urban planning, river basin management, strategies and programs

- Assessing risks, tracking the risk areas, launching public awareness on risks
- Enhancing education and training on disaster risk reduction
- Shifting disaster reduction approach – focus on human security – people

A way forward:

- Prepare a road map and program of action for a safer world with national and international targets for 2015, to coincide with WSSD and Millennium Development Goals
- Advocate disaster reduction as a pillar of sustainable development
- Consolidate and expand innovations for implementation of disaster risk reduction measures
- Mainstream disaster risk reduction into development and environmental management, through the joint efforts of NGOs, Governments and donors, as well as promote stronger cooperation among all actors
- Encourage dialogue at political level with ministers, especially ministers in charge of finance, planning, administration, environment, social development, education, agriculture, etc.
- Facilitate and support formulation of national disaster reduction plans
- Focus more awareness raising and advocacy on disaster reduction for legislators in all countries
- Focus on socio-economic impact studies and use the result to demonstrate needs and benefits of disaster reduction to policy makers
- Develop and introduce tools and guidelines to pursue a holistic approach to disaster risk management
- Develop better framework for assessing and reducing earthquakes in cities
- Facilitate communication between professional and other stakeholders in disaster reduction
- Establish a target percentage (for example 20 %) of both disaster related and sectoral development budgets specifically ear-marked for disaster reduction
- Continue dialogues and enhance coordination within the UN system
- Link disaster risk reduction to formal education systems and to environmental educational programs (as for the proposed “decade for environmental education”)

2. Thematic Sessions on Urban Risks

Issues pertaining to urban risks are a pressing concern for those in the field of disaster mitigation. As more and more uncontrolled growth such as urban sprawl and the emergence of mega-cities around the world continues, disasters of all genres become an inevitable consequence of urbanization. This session focused on four main issues of urban risks and disaster mitigation: 1. Impact of disaster on development 2.Actors (especially the local governments) in managing the risk and their roles 3.Sustainability of risk management activities and 4.Role of international assistance.

In the first session, on January 16th, experts from around the world shared their knowledge on disaster management and mitigation to discuss the four specific topics set by the coordinator. They produced several objective recommendations for the reduction of urban risk around the world. Using especially prepared charts, which were distributed at the session’s beginning, feedback was also collected, from the audience attending the session.

On January 17th, a plenary session used a summary of the first session’s presentations to continue the discussions on urban risk reduction. The floor was opened to the expert panelists and to the audience at large and several recommendations to improve urban risk reduction were suggested and discussed. These recommendations were summarized to conclude the session.

Presentation Session

15:40 - 17:30 Thursday, January 16, 2003 Venue: Room 403 (English only)
Coordinator: Dr. Carlos Villacis, Consultant, ISDR Secretariat/UNESCO
Rapporteur: Mr. Kenji Okazaki, Coordinator, UNCRD

Speakers:
- Mr. Masahiro Uehara, Head of Urban Development Guidance Office, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan
- Dr. Badaoui Rouhban, Chief, Section of Engineering and Technology, UNESCO
- Prof. Renan Ma. Tanhueco, Vice-Chairman, De La Salle University, UNU
- Mr. Alan Mearns, Disaster Management Coordinator, SOPAC, Fiji
- Mr. A.J. Loy Rego, Director, ADPC, Thailand
- Prof. Kimiro Meguro, ICUS/INCEDE, Japan

Panel Discussion
13:30 - 15:00 Friday, January 17, 2003 Venue: Room 301 (English and Japanese)
Coordinator: Dr. Carlos Villacis, ISDR Secretariat/UNESCO
Rapporteur: Mr. Kenji Okazaki, UNCRD
Panelists:
- Dr. Badaoui Rouhban, UNESCO
- Prof. Renan Ma. Tanhueco, UNU
- Mr. Alan Mearns, SOPAC, Fiji
- Mr. A.J. Loy Rego, ADPC, Thailand
- Prof. Kimiro Meguro, ICUS/INCEDE, Japan
- Mr. Yoshinobu Fukasawa, Deputy Executive Director, DRI, Japan
- Prof. Serguei Balassanian, President, ASC, Armenia

Recommendations:

The following is a summary of the recommendations produced by this session. These recommendations are grouped under the four issues that were the focus of the discussions.

1. Impact of natural disasters on development
- Carry out systematic documentations of the impact of disasters on development using past events.
- Perform cost-benefit analyses to demonstrate quantitatively both the actual impact of disasters on development and the financial benefits of risk reduction.
- Share experiences. Kobe City has used the disaster as an opportunity to change planning and development processes. Kobe integrated reconstruction into an overall development plan. It is very important to transfer these experiences to other cities.

2. Actors in managing urban risk and their roles
- Promote the increase of risk management abilities of local governments. Support and encourage local government's efforts. Kobe's recovery process shows the importance of local governments' active, long-term commitment to risk management.
- Intergovernmental mechanisms are indispensable at the regional level. The South Pacific region's work is a good example of generating political will at the regional level and coordinating it for effective risk reduction. For this to happen, it is important to target key government officials and identify natural risk management champions among them.
- Encourage participatory roles of the communities in disaster mitigation. This can be achieved by identifying the people's needs and preferences and giving them voice in risk reduction decision making.
- Increase the collaboration between technical and social scientists in order to properly include social vulnerability in the assessment of risk and to better understand the actual impact of disasters on sustainable development. It is essential to improve the links and communication between government and the scientific community.
- Promote city based partnerships among local government, technical institutions, NGOs, and community organizations. Disasters affect everybody and, therefore, it is everybody's duty (and right) to collaborate, in a coordinated manner, in reducing disaster risk.

3. Sustainability of risk management activities
- Risk education (understanding and communication) is crucial. Everybody should have a clear picture of the existing risk at both community and personal levels as well as of available risk reduction measures. Effective use of educational and mass communication systems and risk management training for decision makers are recommended.
- Consult with the community to ensure acceptance and long-term support of risk reduction programs. It is necessary to identify what the community appreciates, wants, and supports.

- Identify and set up long-term goals to ensure that all the individual efforts go in the same direction and contribute to common goals.
- Incorporate risk management as integral part of public policy and mainstream culture to ensure that risk reduction activities are independent from political and administrative changes.
- Promote regional efforts in which the joint work of high income countries with medium and low income ones makes risk reduction activities affordable. (SOPAC is a remarkable example)
- Increase institutional capacity of cities to implement long-term risk reduction programmes. This includes the establishment of required legal, financial, political, and organizational frameworks.

4. Role of international assistance

- Disseminate and communicate techniques, results, and best practices at the international level
- Promote and facilitate the creation of international partnerships and the coordination of efforts
- Raise awareness of the importance and benefits of risk reduction at the global level
- Facilitate the initiation of long-term risk reduction programs at local level but prepare the local communities to take charge in the long-term

3. Thematic Sessions on Water Related Risks

Water related risk reduction cannot be separated from the broader water agenda, as most of the Asian countries are challenged to meet the increasing water demands in adequate quantity and quality to a growing population and rapidly improving economies, whereas “too much” or “too little” water invariably lead to floods and droughts. The International Year of Fresh Water, 2003, provides an excellent opportunity to focus the attention of policy makers, practitioners and the public in general to address and reduce risk to floods and drought within the framework of Integrated Water Resource Management. This was the main focus area of the presentation session on water related risk reduction session held on the 16th of January. Additional topics for discussion in the session were, (1) improvement of flood management guidelines and (2) encouraging governments’ commitment to disaster risk reduction through public education and awareness building.

On the second day, a panel discussion was held as an extension to the presentation session, where the panelists first gave their thoughts on what they considered to be the most pressing issues related to the water related risk reduction, followed by a question and answer session that was open to all participants.

Presentation Session

15:30 - 17:30 Thursday, January 16, 2003 Venue: Room 401/402 (English only)
Coordinator: Ms. Helena Molin Valdes, Policy Officer, ISDR Secretariat (UN/ISDR)
Rapporteur: Prof. Srikantha Herath, Senior Academic Programme Officer, UNU
Speakers:

- Mr. Sospeter Muiruri, Climate Scientist, Drought Monitoring Center (DMC), “Extreme Climate Water Related Risks in the Greater Horn of Africa”
- Ms. Mandira Shrestha, Water Resources Specialist, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), “Regional Cooperation in Flood Forecasting and Information Exchange in the Hindu Kush Himalayas”
- Mr. Junji Miwa, Senior Research Engineer, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport MLIT, Japan, “Comprehensive Flood Control Measures in Japan”
- Dr. Ivan Obrusnik, Director, Czech Hydrometeorological Institute (CHI), “Early Warning For Floods and Its Importance in Strategy for Disaster Reduction”
- Dr. Dugkeun Park, Senior Analyst, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs (MOGAHA), Korea, “Damages by Typhoon Rusa and Korea's Countermeasures”
- Mr. Katsuhiro Abe, Chief of Tropical Cyclone Programme Division, WMO, “WMO tropical cyclone program”

Panel Discussion

15:10 - 16:40 Friday January 17, 2003 Venue: Room 301 (English and Japanese)

Coordinator: Ms. Helena Molin Valdes, ISDR Secretariat

Rapporteur: Prof. Srikantha Herath, UNU

Panelists:

- Mr. Katsuhiro Abe,WMO
- Mr. Sospeter Muiruri, DMC
- Ms. Mandira Shrestha, ICIMOD
- Mr. Junji Miwa, MLIT
- Dr. Ivan Obrusnik, CHI
- Dr. Dugkeun Park, MOGAHA

Recommendations:

Regional

- Due to high variability in climate and catchment characteristics, Asian region is well disposed to use integrated water management approaches for water related risk reduction. Efforts must be made to develop organizational structures that bring organizations dealing with flood and droughts and other relevant agencies to work towards integrated solutions.
- Sharing common experiences and lessons in flood management in Asian alluvial plains through networking should be enhanced.
- Promotion of transboundary data and information exchange for flood risk reduction similar to the success of WMO tropical cyclone program and HKH initiative should be actively carried out.

Flood loss reduction: Response

- Successful experiences to promote awareness and public acceptance of warnings and forecasts should be widely disseminated.
- Development of better models and tools improve forecasting accuracy and lead times should be carried out.
- Integration of local knowledge with scientific knowledge should be pursued for improving preparedness, effectiveness of warning and dissemination.
- Authority, competency and responsibility of different organizations should be clearly identified in issuing warnings and disseminating information during floods.
- Enhancing awareness and building consensus should be carried out among all stakeholders to improve public response to warnings.

Flood risk reduction: Mitigation

- Increasing hydro meteorological observations enhancing operational networks in the region should be pursued.
- Capacity building at all levels should be promoted.
- Past disaster experiences should be examined and lessons should be incorporated in the future risk reduction action plans. Also the experiences of disasters should be carefully recorded for future reference.
- Promote integrated risk assessment to identify mitigation needs due to changes in catchments and settlements.
- Develop methods to reduce man made impacts that increase flood risk. Onsite measures are a successful example used in reducing urbanization impacts.
- Use the window of opportunity in the aftermath of a flood effectively for new legislation and implementing mitigation measures.

2-1-3-3. Related Events

1. Poster Session (Wednsday, January 15 – Friday January 17 , 2003)

Aiming at multilateral exchange of information on disaster and disaster risk management and to promote a holistic approach to disaster reduction effectively among the participants, a poster session was held outside of the conference hall. ADRC member countries displayed posters, pamphlets and booklets prepared in their own countries demonstrating the status of disasters and countermeasures, structure of disaster management, hazard maps, training courses and other disaster reduction efforts. International and regional organizations participating in the conference also exhibited their publications and advertising materials illustrating their activities, initiatives, and results of their projects for raising awareness and disaster risk management.

The poster session generated interest among the representatives from participating countries and organizations. They actively exchanged their views about information displayed and learned about the efforts made for effective and integrated disaster management in various countries and organizations. Moreover, it was open to public so that residents of Kobe and its vicinity as well as people in charge of disaster risk management in Japan could also join the session.

Fig. 2-1-3-3 Poster Session at the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2003

2. Symposium on "Coping with the Earth: towards disaster-resilient society"

15:30 - 17:30 Wednesday, January 16, 2003 Venue: Room 301 (English and Japanese)

The symposium entitled "Coping with the Earth: towards disaster-resilient society", organized by the Hyogo Prefecture and Disaster Reduction Alliance, is described below.

In recent years, the numbers of victims and the economic losses resulting from natural disasters have been increasing. Similarly, large scale disasters (such as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, North-West Turkey Earthquake, West India Earthquake and floods in the Asia region) have been occurring frequently. In order to create a social structure that enables society to coexist with disasters, namely 'a disaster resilient society,' it is necessary to have an understanding of urban, social and economic structures, as well as the practical means to put policy into practice.

This symposium aimed to address the viewpoints, and to introduce the functions of the 'Disaster Reduction Alliance (DRA),' established around the Kobe New Eastern City Center to promote cooperative relationships between the wide-range of organizations.

Coordinators:

- Dr. Yoshiaki Kawata, Director, Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI), Chairman, Disaster Reduction Alliance (DRA), Kobe
- Mr. Kenneth Topping, Visiting Professor, Kyoto University

Speakers:

- Ms. Sushma Iyengar, Secretary General, Kutch Nav Nirman Abhiyan, India
- Dr. David Mammen, President, Institute of Public Administration, NY
- Mr. Eiryo Sumida, Vice President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Mr. Masatomo Umitsu, Professor, Nagoya University

Commentators:

- Mr. Sálvano Briceno, Director, UN Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)
- Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Director, Global Environment Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

Conclusion:

Key points arising from the discussion were as follows. First, the importance of education and raising awareness for an empowerment of individuals is recognized. Although a community is a key player for disaster prevention and response in both developed and developing countries, as Ms. Iyengar said, '… people have become dependent because of the excess governmental support for them'. Mr. Briceno concluded the discussion that 'a disaster resilient society can only be developed based on community self reliance, which in turn is only reliant on self-esteem and personal growth.'

Second, understanding a cultural, historical and social background of the region is also significant, in order for effective education and enlightenment of the individuals. Mr. Sumida introduced a lesson from JICA's experience of project implementation that making visible a benefit the individual might receive from endeavors to prevent disasters is critical. Dr. Umitsu followed the argument saying that 'an effective project must be field-oriented.' These lessons lead the discussion to a conclusion that 'we cannot avoid facing the socio-economic problem such as poverty and empowerment of women in order for effective disaster prevention,' as Mr. Sumida emphasized.

Finally, for all those purposes mentioned above, all discussants agreed that an ideal alliance among related organizations to disasters must be '… with clear communication, realistic assessments, true collaborative action and evaluation, and mutual learning and clear coordination,' as Mr. Topping suggested. The nature of DRA is a loose alliance among disaster related and international organizations, but they clearly share the objective of enhancing collaboration among each other for future disaster reduction. In that sense, DRA is along with the conclusion of the discussion, as well as ISDR policy, the symposium was closed with a comment of Dr. Kawata who emphasized DRA's potential to be an intellectual hub of international disaster reduction.

2-1-3-4. Chairperson's Summary of the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2003

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2003 adopted the following chairperson's summary.

Chairperson's Summary

17 January 2003

Introduction

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2003 was held in Hyogo Prefecture in Japan on 15-17 January 2003, with the participation of policy representatives, experts in disaster and risk management from 24 countries mainly in Asia and representatives of 26 international and regional organizations. The aim of the Conference was: a) to understand the achievements and challenges in disaster reduction in Asia, b) to develop the paradigm of regional and international cooperation, and c) to build disaster reduction capacity and propose guidelines to improve it for the Asian region, as a contribution to the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World. Frank and constructive discussion was conducted by the participants throughout the Conference and the following has been adopted as the Chairperson's Summary.

1. Perspective of a New Disaster Reduction Strategy in Asia
In Asia, there is a need to examine the following challenges:

1) Urban vulnerability and disasters

Rapid urban growth, as a result of the sharp economic development, is one of the main factors contributing to increased vulnerability to natural hazards in Asia. Unplanned urban growth results in a generalized increase in damage in case of earthquakes, floods and similar disasters. As the Great Hanshin-Awaji (Kobe) Earthquake in 1995 as well as other similar disasters in Asia demonstrated, cities are highly vulnerable to natural hazards. Once a disaster occurs, its direct and secondary impacts can become enormous. It is recognized that sustainable development, whether it is a developing country or an industrialized country, has to rely also on measures to counter urban vulnerability to natural disasters. Therefore, it is indispensable to undertake risk assessments based on vulnerability indicators, to build cities with reduced vulnerability, as well as to build capacity to recover from disasters and to reconstruct the affected urban areas rapidly.

2) Response to climate change

Additionally, it is necessary to respond to the effect of extreme climate fluctuations. For example, due to rise in average temperature caused by global warming, the number and intensity of cyclones and typhoons, or El Nino related disasters, such as droughts and floods, are anticipated to increase. In addition, it is pointed out that rise in sea level and temperature will increase the risk of storm surge in island and low-lying coastal countries and extend the liquefaction of alluvial lands in time of earthquakes. In this regard, it is suggested to carry out a research on the correlation between climate change and disasters with a long-term view as well as to strengthen international cooperation to establish and improve early warning systems at national, regional, and international levels.

3) Multi-disciplinary and inter-sectoral cooperation to address emerging challenges

In order to confront the problems mentioned above, it is vital to strengthen cooperation among various sectors, including some whose primary mandate may not explicitly include disaster reduction. Considering that social aspects as poverty and environmental degradation are the main factors to increase vulnerability, it is crucial to involve in disaster reduction actors of various fields, such as education, the media, environment, science and technology, and development planning. In addition, cooperation with academic and scientific sectors is relevant for the study on the correlation between climate and disasters and the development of improved

early-warning systems.

Furthermore, to strengthen comprehensive disaster reduction capacity at the community level, it is essential to enhance partnership among various sectors including national and local governments, and various public and private sectors of the society.

4) Enhancement of Information Management Capacity

It is necessary to improve the collection, organization and dissemination of data (statistics and other relevant data) on the human, social, economic and environmental impact of disasters in order to demonstrate to policy and decision makers that disaster reduction is cost effective and conducive to sustainable development.

The sharing of information and the networking among relevant actors in the information field is essential to ensure wider involvement and a greater impact in policy and decision making.

2. Recommendations of the Conference

In order to respond to the trends in the 21st century in urban disasters, climate change and disasters, and to promote multi-disciplinary and inter-sectoral cooperation to address emerging challenges, it is indispensable to build a framework of international cooperation, among others, in the following areas:

1) Urban vulnerability and disasters

- □ Promotion of disaster reduction strategies at the community level, in particular, to reduce vulnerability in urban areas and to promote activities to ensure safety through the development of culture of prevention.
- □ Promotion of risk assessment based on vulnerability indicators, to build cities with reduced vulnerability, as well as to build capacity to recover from disasters and to reconstruct the affected areas rapidly.

2) Response to climate change

- □ Promotion of research on the correlation between climate change and disasters with a long-term view.
- □ Establishment of improved early warning systems to reduce disasters caused by extreme events, such as floods and droughts.

3) Cooperation to address emerging challenges

- □ Establishment and strengthening of cooperation between various sectors of the community, such as education, the media, environment, development planning, science and technology in order to reduce the negative impacts of disasters.
- □ Participation of all sectors at the community level, such as the local governments, the private sector, NGOs, and other driving actors.

4) Enhancement of information management capacity

- □ Improvement of data collection and dissemination.
- □ Strengthening of information sharing and networking.

3. Outcome of the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2003

Holding this Asian Conference in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, where one of the most devastating earthquakes occurred eight years ago, has a symbolic significance. Japan is interested in sharing and exchanging the experiences and lessons learned from disasters with other countries facing similar challenges.

Various international and regional institutions located in Kobe working on issues such as disaster reduction, environment, health and medical care, confirmed during the Conference to cooperate together and to promote the enhancement of disaster reduction activities through the development of the Disaster Reduction Alliance.

ISDR, as the successor arrangement to IDNDR, is currently initiating the ten-year review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action adopted at the World Disaster Reduction Conference in Yokohama, Japan in 1994, and the work is expected to conclude by the end of

2004. It has been planned to examine the achievements and shortcomings in each region of the world and in various related themes, such as early warning and El Nino. In this regard, this Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2003 is the first event in the process to discuss the subject. The outcome of this Conference constitutes a valuable contribution for further discussion at the events planned during 2003/2004 as part of the ten-year review.

2-1-3-5 List of Participants

No.	Country/ Organization	Mr/ Ms	Name	Title	Organization
Commemorative Ceremony					
1	Japan	Mr.	Yoshitada KONOIKE	Minister of State for Disaster Management	The Government of Japan
2	Japan	Mr.	Toshizo IDO	Governor	Hyogo Prefectural Government
Asian Disaster Reduction Center -Member Countries					
1	Armenia	Dr.	Hektor BABAYAN	Vice-President, Armenian National Survey for Seismic Protection	Emergency Management Administration
2	Bangladesh	Mr.	BMM Mozharul HUQ	Secretary to the Government	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
3	Cambodia	HE	Nhim VANDA	Senior Minister, First Vice President, Member of National Assembly	Council of Minister, National Committee for Disaster Management, National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
4	Cambodia	Mr.	Ros SOVANN	Under Director General, Advisor and Aid to the First Vice President	Council of Minister, National Committee for Disaster Management
5	India	Mr.	M.P. Sajnani	Director, Disaster Management Division	Ministry of Home Affairs
6	Indonesia	Mr.	Sugeng TRIUTOMO	Director for Disaster Mitigation	National Coordinating Board for Disaster Management
8	Japan	Mr.	Shigetaro YAMAMOTO	Director General for Disaster Management	Cabinet Office, The Government of Japan
9	Japan	Mr.	Katsuhiko HARA	Director for Disaster Preparedness	Cabinet Office, The Government of Japan
10	Japan	Mr.	Masaaki NAKAGAWA	Deputy Director for Disaster Preparedness	Cabinet Office, The Government of Japan
11	Japan	Mr.	Takashi MURAKAMI	Under Director for Disaster Preparedness	Cabinet Office, The Government of Japan
12	Kazakhstan	Mr.	Eldar KUNAYEV	Director of Emergency Prevention Department	Emergency Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan
13	Korea	Mr.	KIM, Eung Soo	Disaster Preparedness Division	Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs
14	Korea	Dr.	Dugkeun PARK	Senior Analyst	National Institute for Disaster Prevention, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs
15	Korea	Mr.	Chang-Sub KIM	Deputy Director	Disaster Planning and Prevention Division, Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs
16	Kyrgyz	Ms.	Ainura RAKUNBAEVA	Senior Specialist	International Cooperation department of the Ecology and Emergency Situations Ministry
17	Laos	Mr.	Phetsavang SOUNNALATH	Director	National Disaster Management Office, Ministry of Labor & Social Welfare
18	Malaysia	Mr.	Jimat BOLHASSAN	Head, Spatial Data Analysis an Modeling	Malaysian Centre for Remote Sensing (MACRES)

19	Malaysia	Ms.	Azmah ALI	Research Officer	Malaysian Centre for Remote Sensing (MACRES)
20	Mongolia	Dr.	HIJABA Ykhanbai	Director of Strategic Management and Planning Department	Ministry of Nature and the Environment
21	Myanmar	Mr.	U Tin Aung HTWE	Director	Central Fire Services Training School, Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
22	Nepal	Mr.	Chandeshwar ACHARYA	Director	Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Narcotics Control and Disaster Management
23	Philippines	Ms.	Elma ALDEA	Deputy Administrator	Office of Civil Defense, Department of National Defense
24	Russia	Ms.	Svetlana BANDURKINA	Senior Expert	Department for International Cooperation, EMERCOM of Russia
25	Singapore	Mr.	Yazid Bin ABDULLAH	Commander 4th Civil Defence Division	Singapore Civil Defence Force
26	Singapore	Mr.	Gobiselven GOVINDASAMY	Senior Instructor	Civil Defence Academy, Singapore Civil Defence Force
27	Sri Lanka	Mr.	Nimal Dharmasiri HETTIARACHCHI	Director	National Disaster Management Centre
28	Tajikistan	Mr.	Abdurakhim RADJABOV	First Deputy Minister	Ministry of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence of the Tajikistan Republic
29	Tajikistan	Mr.	Armen GRIGORYAN	Consultant, Programme Unit	UNDP Tajikistan
30	Thailand	Mr.	Sompot KONGROD	Acting Chief of External Relations Section	Dept. of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Ministry of Interior
31	Thailand	Mr.	Annop PETWISETH	Acting Director of International Cooperation Division	Dept. of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Ministry of Interior
32	Uzbekistan	Mr.	Srajiddin AKHUNOV	Leader	Department of Emergency Situation, Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan
33	Uzbekistan	Mr.	Beruni ALIMOV	Second Secretary	Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan
34	Viet Nam	Dr.	HOANG MINH Hien	Manager on Disaster	Disaster Management Center, Department of Flood and Storm Control and Dike Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
35	Viet Nam	Dr.	VU VAN Quy	Director of Flood and Storm Control Office, Hai Phong Province	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hai Phong Province
Asian Disaster Reduction Center –Advisory Country					
1	Switzerland	Dr.	Markus ZIMMERMANN	Consultant for Disaster Reduction	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Government of Switzerland
Asian Disaster Reduction Center –Observer					
1	ADPC	Mr.	A.J. (Loy) REGO	Director	Planning, Development & Partnerships, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)

Resource Persons					
1	ADB	Dr.	Patrick SAFRAN	Planning and Policy Officer	Asian Development Bank
2	ASC	Prof.	Serguei BALASSANIAN	President	Asian Seismological Commission (ASC), Armenian Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth Interior (AASPEI)
3	CHI	Dr.	Ivan OBRUSNIK	Director	Czech Hydrometeorological Institute, Czech National Committee for Disaster Reduction
4	DMC	Mr.	Sospeter MUIRURI	Climate Scientist	Drought Monitoring Centre Nairobi
5	DRI	Mr.	Yoshinobu FUKASAWA	Deputy Executive Director	Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution, Japan
6	DRI	Mr.	Masahiko MURATA	Project Manager	Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution
7	EDM	Dr.	Hiroyuki KAMEDA	Director	Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Research Center, National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention
8	ICIMOD	Ms.	Mandira SHRESTHA	Water Resources Specialist	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
9	ICUS/INCEDE	Prof.	Kimiro MEGURO	Associate Professor	Institute of Industrial Science, The University of Tokyo, Japan
10	IFRC	Mr.	Richard GROVE-HILLS	Head of Regional Delegation, Beijing	International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies
11	Japan	Mr.	Masahiro UEHARA	Head of Urban Development Guidance Office	Hyogo Prefectural Government, Japan
12	Japan	Mr.	Shunsuke MUTAI	Director	Japanese Government(Disaster Management Division, Fire and Disaster Management Agency)
13	Japan	Mr.	Junji MIWA	Senior Research Engineer	Japanese Government(Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport)
14	Japan	Dr.	Masashi NAGATA	Head, National Typhoon Center	Japan Meteorological Agency
15	Japan	Mr.	Hitoshi MOTEGI	Manager	The Tokio Marine Risk Consulting Co., Ltd.
16	La Red	Mr.	Julio SERJE	Founder Member – Technical Architect	La Red –The Network for Social Studies on Disaster Prevention in Latin America
17	MRC	Mr.	Veasna BUN	Programme Officer, ORD	Mekong River Commission
18	NASDA	Mr.	Toru OHUE	Associate Senior Engineer	National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA)
19	Philippines	Mr.	Emmanuel de GUZMAN	Vice President & Chief Executive Officer	Alliance for Emergency Response and Training
20	SIF	Ms.	ANG Siok Hui	Director, Humanitarian Relief Programme	Singapore International Foundation
21	SOPAC	Mr.	Alan MEARNS	Disaster Management Coordinator	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)
22	USAID	Mr.	Thomas DOLAN	Senior Regional Advisor	USAID/DCHA/OFDA, Manila
23	YMCA	Mr.	Hiroshi OE	Chief Director	YOKOHAMA YMCA, Centre for Global and Local Community Services
24	UNCRD	Mr.	Kenji OKAZAKI	Coordinator	UNCRD(Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office, UN Centre for Regional Development)

25	UNDP	Mr.	Thomas BRENNAN	Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor	UNDP, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
26	UNDP	Mr.	Kamal KISHORE	Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor	UNDP, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
27	UNESCO	Dr.	Badaoui ROUHBAN	Chief of Section of Engineering and Technology	UNESCO
28	UN-Habitat	Mr.	Toshiyasu NODA	Director for Asia & the Pacific	UN-Habitat Fukuoka Office
29	UN-ISDR	Mr.	Salvano BRICENO	Director	UN-ISDR
30	UN-ISDR	Ms.	Helena Molin VALDES	Policy Officer	UN-ISDR
31	UN-ISDR/ UNESCO	Dr.	Carlos VILLACIS	Consultant	UN-ISDR/UNESCO
32	UN-ISDR	Dr.	Feng Min KAN	Senior Regional Officer	UN-ISDR, Nairobi
33	UN-OCHA	Mr.	Terje SKAVDAL	Regional Disaster Response Advisor	UN-OCHA
34	UN-OCHA	Ms.	Takako IZUMI	Associate Humanitarian Affairs Officer	UN-OCHA
35	UN-OCHA	Mr.	Shuichi ODAKA	Information Manager	UN-OCHA
36	UNU	Dr.	Jerry VELASQUEZ	Coordinator, UNU/GEIC	UNU(United Nations University)
37	UNU	Prof.	Srikantha HERATH	Senior Academic Programme Officer	UNU(United Nations University)
38	UNU	Prof.	Mohamed SAIED	Research Assistant	UNU(United Nations University)
39	UNU	Prof.	Renan Ma. TANHUECO	Vice-Chairman	UNU(Civil Engineering Department, De La Salle University, Manila)
40	WMO	Mr.	Katsuhiro ABE	Chief, Tropical Cyclone Programme Division	World Weather Watch-Applications Department, World Meteorological Organization
Symposium					
1	DRI/Japan	Prof.	Yoshiaki KAWATA	Executive Director Chairman	Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution Disaster Reduction Alliance
2	India	Ms.	Sushima IYENGAR	Member Secretary	Kutch Nav Nirman Abhiyan
3	Japan	Mr.	Kenneth C. TOPPING	Visiting Professor	Kyoto University
4	Japan	Mr.	Eiryo SUMIDA	Vice President	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
5	Japan	Dr.	Masatomo UMITSU	Professor	Nagoya University
6	Japan	Mr.	Hidenobu SOBASHIMA	Director	Global Environment division, Multilateral Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
7	U.S.A.	Dr.	David MAMMEN	President	Institute of Public Administration, NY

Others					
1	Japan	Mr.	Naoki SHIRATSUCHI	Assistant Director, Field Personnel & Training Centre	International Relations Dept., Japanese Red Cross Society
2	Japan	Mr.	Yasuo NAKANO	Director	Research Center for Disaster Risk Management, National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport
3	Japan	Dr.	Teng WUXIAO	Visiting Researcher	Urban Disaster Research Institute
4	Japan	Dr.	Mladen KOSTADINOV	Research Associate	Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo
Asian Disaster Reduction Center					
1	ADRC	Prof.	Shigeru ITOH	Chairman	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
2	ADRC	Mr.	Satoru NISHIKAWA	Executive Director	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
3	ADRC	Mr.	Fumiaki YOSHIMURA	Senior Researcher	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
4	ADRC	Dr.	Harumi YASHIRO	Senior Researcher	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
5	ADRC	Mr.	Masanori ARAKI	Senior Researcher	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
6	ADRC	Mr.	Masaru ARAKIDA	Senior Researcher	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
7	ADRC	Dr.	Tomohiko HATORI	Senior Researcher	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
8	ADRC	Ms.	Etsuko TSUNOZAKI	Senior Researcher	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
9	ADRC	Ms.	Takako CHINOI	Researcher	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
10	ADRC	Ms.	Akiko NAKAMURA	Researcher	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
11	ADRC	Ms.	Miki KODAMA	Researcher	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
12	ADRC	Ms.	BORKHUU Bolormaa	Visiting Researcher	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
13	ADRC	Mr.	Dilli Prasad SHIWAKOTI	Visiting Researcher	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
14	ADRC	Mr.	Kazuyuki YOSHINAGA	Administrative Manager	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
15	ADRC	Ms.	Sonoko TANAKA	Administration	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
16	ADRC	Ms.	Aya OKUMI	Assistant	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
17	ADRC	Ms.	Maki YOSHIDA	Assistant	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
18	ADRC	Mr.	S. R. N. Colombage	Assistant	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
19	ADRC	Mr.	Srigowri Sanker	Assistant	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
20	ADRC	Ms.	Tomomi IKEDA	Assistant	Asian Disaster Reduction Center

2-1-4. Visiting Researchers from Member Countries

In line with the agreements made at the 1st International Meeting, ADRC has been receiving visiting researchers from member countries. To date, 15 persons have taken part in this program and it is believed that this kind of activity would help to strengthen disaster management system and disaster reduction capacity in their native countries. The following outlines ADRC's program for each visiting researcher:

(1) Korea
- Mr. Shim Kee-Oh
- Title at the time of visit: Project Manager, Nation's Institute for Disaster Reduction (Drought Control), Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs.
- Duration: August - October, 1999
- Researched drought control in Japan and reported on drought control in Korea. Additionally, researched and reported on recent drought disasters in Vietnam and Papua New Guinea.

(2) Vietnam
- Mr. Ngo van Sinh
- Title at the time of visit: Water-related Disaster Management Specialist, Disaster Management Center, Committee for Flood and Storm Control, Department of Flood Management, Flood and Storm Control, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of S.R. Vietnam
- Duration: December 1999 - March 2000
- Reported on the legal system surrounding disaster reduction as well as flooding in Vietnam, studied flood reduction measures in Japan and visited related facilities. Conducted research under Professor Takara and Assistant Professor Toda, Disaster Reduction Institute, Kyoto University, in the area of water-related disasters.

(3) Nepal
- Mr. Lek Nath Pokharel
- Title at the time of visit: Section Officer, Disaster Relief Section, Ministry of Home Affairs
- Duration: January - May 2000
- Reported on the legal system surrounding disaster reduction as well as natural disasters in Nepal, studied landslide reduction measures in Japan and visited related facilities. Conducted research under Assistant Professor Nakagawa, Disaster Reduction Institute, Kyoto University.
- Reported on flood management and the possible collapse of Tsho Rolpa glacial lake in the Himalayas and conducted research under Professor Ueda (cryospheric variation) at the Atmosphere-Hydrosphere Science Institute, Nagoya University.

(4) Sri Lanka
- Mr. Nimal Dharmasiri Hettiarachchi
- Title at the time of visit: Deputy Director for Disaster Relief, Department of Social Services, Ministry of Home Affairs
- Duration: April - October 2000
- Reported on a basic disaster reduction bill in Parliament and natural disasters in Sri Lanka. Exchanged opinions with researchers from the UN Regional Development Center at Nagoya University and ADRC about sustainable development and its relations to disaster reduction.

(5) Bangladesh
- Mr. M. Babul Akhter
- Title at the time of visit: Assistant Manager, Palli Karma Shayak Foundation, Treasury Department
- Duration: May - November 2000
- Reported on disaster reduction systems, natural disasters and the significance that a small business support program for women has with regards to disaster reduction in Bangladesh. Studied flood reduction and river management in Japan at the Ministry of Construction (now Ministry of Land Infrastructure and Transportation) and River Information Center because of the many flood disasters in his country.

(6) Sri Lanka
- Mr. Chulananda Perera
- Title at the time of visit: Deputy Director, Sri Lanka Ministry of Social Welfare, National Disaster Management Center
- Duration: November 2000 - April 2001
- Reported on natural disasters, the legal system surrounding disaster reduction, and organizations such as the National Disaster Management Center in Sri Lanka. Prepared a training manual for disaster reduction that is needed in his country.

(7) Armenia
- Mr. Hripsime Vardanyan
- Title at the time of visit: Secretary to Director, Armenia National Earthquake Center (NSSP)
- Duration: March - June 2001
- Reported on disasters in Armenia including the Spitak Earthquake and disaster reduction organizations such as NSSP. Visited the Cabinet Office and disaster reduction organizations in Hyogo and Shizuoka, to research disaster reduction in Japan.

(8) Papua New Guniea
- Ms. Philomena Miria
- Title at the time of visit: Director Education & Training, National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO)
- Duration: June-December 2001
- Reported on recent disasters in Papua New Guinea including tidal waves and the eruption of Mt. Rapowl, as well as disaster reduction organizations such as the NDMO. Visited Sanriku and other locations to research Tsunami reduction measures in Japan. Prepared a training manual for disaster reduction in his country.

(9) Cambodia
- Mr. So Ban Heang
- Title at the time of visit: Secretary-General, National Council on Disaster Management Organization (NDMO)
- Duration: June-December 2001
- Reported on flood disasters and measures in Cambodia, as well as the activity of NCDM. Visited Kotani Dam and the Kisosansen River Basin, as well as the Cabinet Office, NHK and the Japan Red Cross, to study flood reduction measures in Japan.

(10) Bangladesh
- Mr. Mohamed Atikuzzaman
- Title at the time of visit: Deputy Director, Bangladesh Provincial Administration Training Center (BPATC)
- Duration: January - July 2002
- Reported on recent cyclones and flood disasters in Bangladesh, as well as BPATC training. Attended JICA Seminar on Disaster Management organized by the ADRC and JICA. Researched all types of disaster reduction in Japan.

(11) Armenia
- Mr. Tigran Sayiyan
- Title at the time of visit: Head, Southern Department Task Force, National Survey for Seismic Protection
- Duration: February - August 2002
- Reported on antiseismic construction after the Spitak Earthquake and other earthquake measures, and activities of the NSSP. Visited the Phoenix Plaza, seismic test lab and other disaster reduction organizations in Hyogo, to study disaster reduction measures in Japan.

(12) Cambodia

- Mr. Khun Sokha
- Title at the time of visit: Assistant to the First Vice-President, National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)
- Duration: July – December 2002
- Reported on the status of and control measures against the rise of water of Lake Tonle Sap (Cambodia) and flooding of the Mekong River. Visited Shiga Pref. to study the flood control measures of Lake Biwa including the improvements of forestry surrounding the Lake. Prepared the report on disaster management of Cambodia.

(13) India

- Mr. V.P. Pasrija
- Title at the time of visit: Assistant Director, Disaster Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs
- Duration: October – December 2002
- Reported on the damage from the Gujarat earthquake and disaster reduction system of India. Actively visited many disaster reduction facilities such as Hyogo Prefecture Disaster Management Center, Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution to collect information contributing to the future establishment of a disaster reduction center in India. Prepared the report on disaster management of India.

(14) Nepal

- Mr. Dilli Shiwakoti
- Title at the time of visit: Director, Dept. of Narcotics and Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs
- Duration: January – June 2003
- Reported on the flooding in the Katmandu area in recent years, the current situation of landslides and floods frequently occurring in various regions and Nepal's disaster reduction projects. Participated in the Seminar on Disaster Management, which is conducted by JICA and ADRC, for comprehensive research of disaster reduction in Japan.

(15) Mongolia

- Ms. Bolormaa Borkhuu
- Title at the time of visit: Officer, Strategic Planning and Management Department, Ministry of Nature and Environment of Mongolia
- Duration: January – June 2003
- Reported on the current status of damages due to drought, heavy snow and forest fires in Mongolia. Also reported on the government's disaster reduction organizations and the Ministry of Nature and Environment. Updated the database of ADRC website. Participated in the Seminar on Disaster Management, which is managed by JICA and ADRC, for comprehensive research of disaster reduction in Japan.

2-1-5. Collaboration with International Organizations and Initiatives

1) UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

In February 2000, the OCHA Asia Unit (OCHA Kobe since 2001) was opened as a joint project of OCHA and ADRC, with an aim to enhance collaboration through continual information exchange.

The Consultative Meeting on TDRM (Total Disaster Risk Management) in Bangkok, the Regional Workshop on TDRM, and UNDAC Induction Course, both held in Kobe, are examples of joint activities of OCHA Kobe and ADRC in 2003 (see later section for details).

2) UN OCHA ReliefWeb

ReliefWeb is an Internet-based clearinghouse operated by OCHA, over which it is providing reliable disaster information in a timely manner to support humanitarian activities by helping the victims of disasters. ADRC, since its foundation, has been providing a link to ReliefWeb on its own homepage for ease of access to UN information. ReliefWeb also has a link to the ADRC website to make better use of information collected by ADRC from various countries. Thus, OCHA and ADRC are sharing information to serve the needs of the humanitarian community more effectively.

The opening of the OCHA Kobe office in the ADRC premises in August 2001 facilitated stronger collaboration between OCHA and ADRC toward effective information sharing systems, including the promotion of GLIDE (see Section 3 for details).

3) The Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED)

CRED managed by the Universite Catholique de Louvain in Belgium is the world's sole database containing natural disaster information from all over the world. To gain overall information of disasters that have occurred in Asia in this century, ADRC entered into a "Collaboration Agreement on Disaster Information Collection" on November 5, 1999 with CRED. ADRC and CRED share information with each other to serve as reliable information sources.

At the GDIN Conference in March 2001, CRED, ReliefWeb and ADRC agreed to combine efforts in promoting GLIDE proposed by ADRC, and the GLIDE project was launched in 2001.

4) Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN)

The Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN) is an initiative that was launched based on a proposal by the US State Department. The main objective of GDIN is to build a sophisticated international framework to provide "the right information, in the right format, to the right people, in time to make the right decisions".

Prompt information collection is an issue of particular importance for GDIN, and effective utilization of satellite information and GIS has been investigated as a solution to this issue.

The policy of this initiative is to integrate information from many independent sources for better utilization of these resources, which largely agrees to the purpose of ADRC's foundation.

GDIN Conferences:
Organizing Conference in Washington DC (July 16-17, 1998)
GDIN 1999 in Mexico City, Mexico (May 11-14, 1999)
GDIN 2000 in Ankara, Turkey (April 26-29, 2000)
GDIN 2001 in Canberra, Australia (April 20-23, 2001)
GDIN 2002 in Rome, Italy (June 19-21, 2002)

ADRC joined in this initiative at GDIN 2000 in Ankara, Turkey. Since that time, ADRC has been actively promoting this initiative.

5) Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)

Established in 1986, ADPC is a non-governmental, regional resource center to support disaster reduction activities in Asia. Based in Thailand, ADPC is implementing a wide range of disaster reduction projects including education and training seminars, on demand consulting and information services from various countries and regions, and programs for the improvement of local disaster reduction capabilities.

To foster mutual cooperation toward a common goal – disaster reduction -, ADRC and ADPC signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in June 2001 to make united efforts in the following segments.

- International disaster reduction activities such as ISDR
- Development of disaster management information systems and other disaster reduction technologies
- Disaster reduction training techniques
- Joint projects

In June 2002, ADRC and ADPC co-sponsored the "Consultative Meeting on Total Disaster Risk Management" in Bangkok by inviting UN agencies and other international organizations from the Asia-Pacific area (see Section 4 for details).

6) The International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES)

IIEES is a governmental institute of Iran. IIEES is providing earthquake information to countries not only in Western Asia, but also the entire Asian region and the world as a whole. The activities of IIEES extend from earthquake forecasts, to seminars and symposiums to foster human resources.

For the mutual cooperation toward common objectives – disaster reduction, in particular earthquake disaster reduction, in Asia -, ADRC and IIEES signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in October 2002 to make united efforts in the following segments.

- Information exchange regarding studies and researches on natural disasters
- Technical services for public awareness activities (education and training)
- Promotion of joint researches