

4-6. Support to Member Countries' efforts for Development of National Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2007 held in Republic of Kazakhstan on 25 to 27 June 2007 gave further impetus for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA) to the ADRC member countries. Based on the identified impediments to the implementation of the 5 priorities for action of the HFA and proposed strategies to overcome these, each member country has respectively continue its efforts for successful implementation of the HFA.

In the context, several support activities to take concrete action for developing strategies were conducted based on the request of member countries.

4-6-1. SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)

ADRC will support the member countries of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) for the development of regional strategy for disaster risk management which will contribute to strengthen the disaster management system in its member countries. ADRC had consultative meetings with SAARC secretariat and SAARC Disaster Management Center established in Delhi, India and formulated the program for the Promoting Regional Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in the SAARC Region to be implemented from Fiscal Year 2007.

Subsequently, the preparatory meeting was held in Delhi on 13th August, 2007 in Delhi with SAARC secretariat, SAARC Disaster Management Center and ADRC. And the “SAARC-Japan Workshop on Regional Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction,” held on 6th November 2007 in Delhi, was attended by high-level officials in charge of disaster management from member countries of the SAARC. The importance of strengthening regional cooperation mechanisms for disaster risk reduction has been made increasingly apparent by recent earthquakes, floods, and cyclones in South Asia. This workshop emphasized the disaster prevention activities that need to be taken in the future, such as the development of a vulnerability atlas using satellite technologies, and the formulation of a plan for collecting the indigenous disaster prevention knowledge of various countries.

In FY2007, we made a feasibility study to confirm the current status of the development of vulnerability atlas in each member country on vulnerability atlas and clarify the gap and needs on the map, and also we collected some good indigenous knowledge on DRR from India, Nepal and Sri Lanka and disseminated them to the SAARC member countries.



Fig.4-6-1 SAARC-Japan Workshop on Regional Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction

4-6-2. Indonesia

Republic of Indonesia is very vulnerable to natural disasters. The natural hazards of Indonesia vary from geological hazards (such as earthquakes, tsunamis, etc) to meteorological hazards (such as floods, cyclones, etc). Indonesian earth segment as well as the coastal and marine waters and the atmospheric conditions are quite dynamic and potentially prone and practically all sorts of know natural disasters in the forms of: tectonic and volcanic earthquakes, Tsunami and the more subtle sea level rise, volcanic eruptions, river floods and landslides, droughts and forest fires, and storm surges and hurricanes. Indonesia, having witnessed huge losses of lives and properties caused by the Sumatra earthquake and the consequent tsunami in the Indian Ocean on December 26 2004, recognized capacity building of natural disaster reduction including earthquakes and tsunami countermeasures as a highly prioritized issue for Indonesia.

In this context, National Coordinating Board for Disaster Management (Bakornas PB) which was established under the Presidential Decree No.43, 1990 as the central governmental organization responsible for the nationwide disaster management has been strengthened its roles and responsibilities based on the Presidential Decree No. 83, 2005. Also, the legislation of disaster management was further developed, and the Disaster Management Law No.24/2007 was enacted on 29 March 2007. The Government of Indonesia is now in the process to formulate ancillary regulations consisting of two presidential regulations and six government regulations.

On June 2 2005, in the course of the efforts of the Government of Indonesia, H.E. Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan, and H.E. Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia decided to establish the Joint Committee on Disaster Reduction for strengthening cooperation toward further institutional development for natural disaster mitigation and preparedness system in Indonesia. To support the activities of the Joint Committee, ADRC was commissioned by the Cabinet Office of Japan and undertook responsibilities to review the current status of disaster preparedness in Indonesia, give guidance toward elaborating a comprehensive and effective system for disaster mitigation and preparedness, and to prepare a draft report jointly with the Committee members.

Besides, ADRC made discussion for further improving the disaster management efforts with Minister for Research and Technology of Indonesia on the occasion of International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake held on 15-16 January 2007. In the discussion, the government of Indonesia proposed to hold the next ADRC annual meeting in Indonesia for realizing importance of disaster reduction in Indonesia. In the ACDR2007, ADRC member countries agreed to hold the ACDR 2008 in Indonesia. The meeting will be held in November 2008 in Bali, Indonesia.

On 21 November 2007, Mr. Koji Suzuki, executive director of ADRC made a lecture titled "Disaster in Asia and Disaster Risk Management in Japan" in the Seminar on the Establishment of Disaster Management System in Indonesia organized by the Golkar Party, a leading party in the National Parliament. He proposed further effort to develop disaster risk management system in Indonesia, introducing Japanese good practices.

Further, ADRC has been joining the Study on Disaster Management in Indonesia conducted in the framework of the technical cooperation programs coordinated by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) from March 2007 to March 2009. The objectives of the Study are to enhance the natural disaster management capacities in the country and to facilitate the creation of necessary institutional mechanisms to achieve it through the formulation of Disaster Management Plan at all levels.



Fig.4-6-2 Seminar on Establishment of Disaster Management System in Jakarta
Source: Jakarta Shinbun

4-6-3. Sri Lanka

Natural disaster events in Sri Lanka have shown a clear increase in the last two decades. Sri Lanka experienced floods, cyclones, drought, landslides, and coastal erosion and occasional seismic events. The severity and frequency of the disasters in Sri Lanka may not be on a high scale as one finds in some other countries in the region. However, the severe damage by the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004 and the following series of flood and landslide events provided the driving force to the Government of Sri Lanka for establishing Disaster Management Center (DMC) of Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights. Several projects and activities have been initiated for improving the current disaster management system in collaboration with international and regional organizations and NGOs along with the establishment of new organization in May 2005.

On 25 April 2006, Minister for Disaster Management and Human Rights of Sri Lanka visited ADRC in the course of the study visit to Japan and requested to support for the development of National Policy to be drafted in May 2006 and cooperation to the activities under the "Road Map*" project.

* "Road Map" is a guiding document to achieve the Vision of Disaster Management in Sri Lanka and includes necessary programs/projects/activities with details of required resources and a targeted time frame. The long title of "Road Map" is "Towards a Safer Sri Lanka: A Road Map for Disaster Risk Management." The Volume 1 was issued in December 2005, and the Volume 2: Project proposal was issued in April 2006.

Based on the request, ADRC has been involved as a team with other organizations the "Comprehensive Study on Disaster Management in Sri Lanka in the framework of the technical cooperation programs coordinated by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) from October 2006 to March 2009. The overall goal of the study is to mitigate the damage caused by natural disasters in Sri Lanka by strengthening the capacity of related organizations and communities. ADRC has been taking responsibility in the study areas on capacity development activities and community based disaster management activities for proposing improved disaster management initiatives in Sri Lanka. On 5 February 2008, in the Capacity Development Seminar conducted under the project program, Mr. Koji Suzuki, executive director of ADRC made a lecture focusing on the important role played by national and local governments and how to establish effective government system for disaster risk management, by taking examples of formulation of flood disaster management plan and early warning system in Japan..



Fig.4-6-3 Capacity Development Seminar in Colombo