

2. Establishment of Network in the Asian Region

2-1. Establishment of Human Network

ADRC focuses on human network to share disaster information in the Asian region. Developing a human network with counterparts of member countries, advisor countries and observers is vital to promote cooperation in disaster reduction in Asia. Thus, ADRC invites management level officials including deputy director-generals, directors and managers to the ADRC International Meeting annually to encourage interpersonal exchanges.

Table.2-1-1-1 Member Countries
Classification: ① Supervisor, ② Contact person

Country	Classification	Name	Title
Armenia	①	Mr. Alvaro Shavarsh Antonyan	President, National Survey for Seismic Protection (NSSP), Government of the Republic of Armenia
	②	Dr. Hektor Babayan	Vice-President, National Survey for Seismic Protection, Government of the Republic of Armenia
Bangladesh	①	Mr. Faruq Ahmed	Secretary in Charge, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka
	②	Mr. Ahm Shamsul Islam	Director General, Disaster Management Bureau, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka
Cambodia	①	H.E. Nhim Vanda	First Vice President, The National Committee for Disaster Management, Royal Government of Cambodia
	②	Mr. Ross Sovann	The National Committee for Disaster Management, Royal Government of Cambodia
China	①	Mr. Zhenyao WANG	Director General, Department of Disaster and Social Relief, Ministry of Civil Affairs
	②	Mr. Yuanchang ZHENG	Deputy Director, Department of Disaster and Social Relief, Ministry of Civil Affairs
	②	Ms. Guan Yan	Project Officer, International Project Cooperation Dept., China National Center for Disaster Reduction
India	①	Mr. R.K. Singh	Joint Secretary & Central Relief Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
	②	Mr. S. K. Swami	Director, National Disaster Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
	②	Mr. V.P. Pasrija	Assistant Director, National Disaster Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
Indonesia	①②	Mr. Sugeng Triutomo	Deputy Assistant, Emergency Response, National Disaster Management Coordinating Board
Japan	①	Mr. Hirotake Omi	Director General for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, The Government of Japan
	②	Mr. Katsuhiko Hara	Director for Disaster Preparedness, Cabinet Office, The Government of Japan

Country	Classification	Name	Title
Kazakhstan	①	Mr. Nurahmet Bijanov	Chairman, Emergency Agency, Emergency Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan
	②	Ms. Laura H. Lukpanova	Main Expert, International Cooperation Office, Emergency Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Kyrgyz	①	Mr. Temurbek Akmamtaliev	Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Emergency Situation of the Kyrgyz Republic
	②	Mr. Nurgiza Jarkinbaeva	Ministry of Ecology and Emergency Situation of the Kyrgyz Republic
Laos	①	Mr. Phetsavang Sounnalath	Director, Department of Social Welfare, National Disaster Management Office, Ministry of Labor & Social Welfare
	②	Mr. Vilaphong Sisomvang	Training Manager, Department of Social Welfare National Disaster Management Office, Ministry of Labor & Social Welfare
Malaysia	①	Mr. Mohamad Haji Yaakub	Director, Crisis and Disaster Management Unit, National Security Division, Prime Minister's Department
	②	Mr. Abdul Khadir Othman	Deputy Director, Crisis and Disaster Management Unit, Division of National Security, Prime Minister's Department
Mongolia	①	Dr. H. Ykhanbai	Director, Department of Strategic Planning and Management, Ministry of Nature and Environment
	②	Ms. N. Oyundar	Director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Nature and the Environment
Myanmar	①	Mr. U Than Oo	Director General, Relief and Resettlement Dept., Office of the Ministers
	②	Mr. Manung Maung Khin	Deputy Director, Relief and Resettlement Dept., Office of the Ministers
Nepal	①	Mr. Kumar Prasad Poudyal	Director General, Dept. of Narcotics Control and Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs
	②	Dr. Meen Bahadur Poudyal Chhetri	Director, Dept. of Narcotics Control and Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs
Papua New Guinea	①	Mr. Gei Ilagi	Head, Dept. of Provincial & Local Level Government Affairs
	②	Mr. Eric Ani	Director, National Disaster Centre
	③	Mr. Kaigabu Kamnanaya	Assistant Director (Risk Management), National Disaster Management Office, Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs
	④	Mr. Henry J. Mokono	Director General, National Disaster Management Office, Dept. of Provincial and Local Government Affairs
	⑤	Ms. Philomena Miria	National Disaster Management Office, Dept. of Provincial and Local Government Affairs
Philippines	①	Gen. Melchor P. Rosales	Administrator, Office of Civil Defense, Department of National Defense
	②	Col. Elma ALDEA	Deputy Administrator, Office of Civil Defense, Department of National Defense

Country	Classification	Name	Title
Korea	①	Mr. Ki Sung Bang	Director-General, Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs
	②	Mr. Lee Byung-Rok	Director, Disaster Prevention Planning Division, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs
	③	Mr. Back, Min Ho	Senior Researcher, Disaster Prevention Research, National Institute for Disaster Prevention, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs
	④	Dr. Park Dugkeun	Senior Researcher, Disaster Prevention Research, National Institute for Disaster Prevention, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs
Russia	①	Mr. Yury V. Brajnikov	Chief, Dept. of International Cooperation, EMERCOM of Russia
	②	Ms. Svetlana Bandurkina	Senior Expert, Dept. of International Cooperation, EMERCOM of Russia
Singapore	①	Mr. Tan Chan Seng	Commissioner, Singapore Civil Defence Force
	②	Maj. Chin Lai Fong	Director Planning Department, Singapore Civil Defence Force
	③	Mr. Maj Phua Huat Hor	Training Department, Singapore Civil Defence Force
Sri Lanka	①	Ms. Manel Nanaya Kkara Kuruppu	Secretary, Ministry of Social Services
	②	Mr. Nimal D. Hetuarachchi	Director, National Disaster Management Centre, Ministry of Social Services
Tajikistan	①	Dr. Abdurakhim Radjabov	First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Emergency Situation and Civil Defense
	②	Mr. Suhrobsho Rahmonov	Ministry of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense
Thailand	①	Mr. Saroch Kutchamath	Director-General, Dept. of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior
	②	Mr. Banchongsak Panthong	Director, Dept. of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Policy Bureau, Ministry of Interior
Uzbekistan	①	Mr. Marat A Ikramov	Head, Department of Protection of Population & Territory, Ministry of Emergency Situations
	②	Mr. Rustman Musaev Nematovich	Head of Dept., Department for Protection of Population & Territory, Ministry of Emergency Situations
Vietnam	①	Mr. Dang Quang Tinh	Director, Department of Dike Management and Flood Control, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
	②	Mr. Le Xuan Truong	Deputy Director, Department of Dike Management and Flood Control, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Table 2-1-1-2 Advisor Countries

Classification: ① Supervisor, ② Contact person

Country	Classification	Name	Title
Australia	①	Mr David Templeman	Director General, Emergency Management Australia
	②	Mr. Morrie Bradley	Director of Business Management, Emergency Management Australia
Switzerland	①②	Mr Beat Kunzi	Senior Program Officer, Humanitarian Aid and Swiss Disaster Relief, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
France	①②	Mr Rene Feunteun	Direction De La Prevention Des Pollutions Et Des Risques, Ministere De L'ecologie
New Zealand	①②	Mr. John Norton	Director, Emergency Management and Civil Defense, Office of Emergency Management & Civil Defense
The United States (joined on Mar. 8, 2004)	①	Mr Thomas Dolan	Senior Regional Advisor, USAID
	①	Dr. Charles R. Aanenson	Counselor, Development Cooperation, USAID
	②	Ms Rie Yamaki	USAID

Table 2-1-1-3 Observers

Classification ① Supervisor, ② Contact person

Country		Name	
ADPC	①	Dr. Suvit Yodmani	Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
	②	Mr. A.J. Rego	Director, Planning Development & Partnerships, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

2-1-1. Expansion of ADRC

In 2003, ADRC contacted the diplomatic missions, including the Embassy, of the United States of America in Japan for the United States' participation as the fifth advisor country.

After explanations on the purpose and activities of ADRC and the meaning of an advisor country status, the Government of the United States officially agreed to become an advisor country to ADRC through U.S. Agency for International Development. The motion for the United States' advisor country status passed the ADRC Steering Committee meeting convened in February 2004 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, and with the following consents of the member states to the decision, the United States became an official advisor country to ADRC in the following month in March 2004.

2-1-2. Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2004

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2004, consisting of the 6th ADRC International Meeting and the 3rd ISDR Asian Meeting, was held from February 4 to 6, 2004 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The Conference was organized by the Governments of Cambodia and Japan, the UN Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). It was participated by more than 130 people including high dignitaries and officials from Cambodia and 22 other countries, mainly from Asia, along with representatives of various UN agencies and international/regional organizations. The Conference was honoured by the address by the Prime Minister of Cambodia, H.E. Mr. Samdech Hun Sen, expressing his support for disaster reduction in Asia and for the Conference deliberations. Co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Nihm Vanda, Senior Minister, First Vice President of NCDM, Cambodia, and H.E. Mr. Tatsuo Sato, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister, Senior Vice Minister of Japan, the Conference issued a Chair Summary.

For further information on the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2004, please refer to the page dedicated to the Conference on the ADRC website (http://www.adrc.or.jp/publications/Asian_Conference_2004/index.html) as well to the Summary Report and CD-ROM "Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2004" published in April 2004 by ADRC. A copy of the report as well as the CD-ROM is available upon request.



Fig.2-1-2-1 Commemorative speech by the Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia

2-1-2-1. Outline of the 6th ADRC International Meeting

The outline of the 6th ADRC International Meeting is described below.

- 1) Date: February 4 (Wed) -5 (Thu), 2004
- 2) Organizer: Asian Disaster Reduction Center
- 3) Participants: 138 (government officials from 22 member countries, representatives of 24 international and regional organizations and others)
- 4) Venue: Hotel City Angkor, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Session1 "Sharing lessons learned from recent disasters"

13:20-15:00, February 4 (Wed), 2004

Last year, a number of major disasters had occurred in the region, exacting their toll on human lives and limbs, property and infrastructures, and the economy and environment of affected countries. These included the landslide in Sri Lanka in May, the super typhoon, Maemi, that hit Korea in September, and the landslides in central and southern Philippines in December. These disasters occurred in spite of existing disaster management programs and strategies in the country, thereby presenting challenges for more effective countermeasures and methodologies for disaster reduction. This session aimed at

presenting and sharing the lessons learned from these recent disasters towards greater awareness of existing gaps and further development of more effective strategies for disaster reduction.

***Facilitator:** Mr. Markus N. Zimmerman, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

***Rapporteur:** Mr. Emmanuel de Guzman, Consultant, Asian Disaster Reduction Center

***Speakers:**

- Mr. Young-Ok Jun, deputy director of BDPP, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs, Korea
- Mr. Nimal D. Hettiarachchi, director of NDMC, Sri Lanka
- Mr. Zou Ming, deputy director of the Department of Disaster and Social Relief, China
- Mr. Bernardo Rafaelito Roldan Alejandro IV, Civil Defense Officer IV of the Office of Civil Defense, Philippines

Session summary:

Typhoon Maemi in Korea, September 2003

Mr. Young-Ok Jun, deputy director of BDPP, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs, Korea, presented a film on the extent and types of damages wrought by Typhoon Maemi in Korea in September 2003. The typhoon killed 131 people and destroyed about \$3.5 billion worth of properties. It was Korea's worst typhoon. Unprecedented in rainfall and wind velocity, the typhoon caused big waves and landslides, resulting in enormous damages to public infrastructures and lifelines including power, communication and transport facilities, buildings and houses, rivers and agricultural land, among others. In view of this recent disaster experience in Korea and its detrimental effect on the country's economy, Mr. Young-Ok mentioned the longing of the people for a safer environment and the current shift in paradigms and policies on disaster management in the country. He conveyed the awakening process in Korea, particularly the increasing awareness on global climate changes and the vulnerability of communities. He also cited the changes in government policy on disaster management, particularly the emphasis on preparedness, reinforcement of response capacity, strengthening of government organization for disaster management and the establishment of self-governing disaster prevention system at the local level. He also discussed the innovative disaster countermeasures in the country, i.e the reinforcement of infrastructures, technological and expertise development, continuing policy development, use and application of IT technology, and adoption of a participatory system for government and private sectors.

Landslide in Sri Lanka, May 2003

Mr. Nimal D. Hettiarachchi, director of NDMC, Sri Lanka, discussed the direct and indirect causes of landslides in the country, which included rainfall, underlying geological formations, and man made activities such as improper land use and construction of roads and houses without consideration of landslide risks. He cited the incidents of landslides in the districts of Ratnapura, Matara, Hambantota and Kalutara. These incidents presented lessons in resource mobilization, local capacity for rapid assessment, commitment of local authorities, media support in information dissemination, and public awareness. He emphasized the importance of political will in disaster management, mobilization of stakeholders' support and the positive response of the victim families. In conclusion, Mr. Hettiarachchi presented hazard zone mapping, land use regulations, insurance and incentives as possible risk reduction measures

Establishment of Disaster Emergency Response System in China

Mr. Zou Ming, deputy director of the Department of Disaster and Social Relief, China, gave a profile of flood, landslide and earthquake disasters in the country, citing their impact on human lives, property and the economy. He presented two cases of disaster situations, the earthquake in Bachu-Jiashi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the

well eruption in Kai County, Chong Qing, and an analysis of their respective impact and the corresponding response of national and local governments. Based on these two cases, Mr. Zou conveyed the importance of strengthening early warning systems, formulating disaster emergency response plan, enhancing disaster response capacity, ensuring effective disaster information sharing, improving collaboration and cooperation at all levels, raising public awareness on disaster prevention, and promoting disaster legislation.

Landslides in the Philippines, December 2003

Mr. Bernardo Rafaelito Roldan Alejandro IV, Civil Defense Officer IV of the Office of Civil Defense, Philippines, presented a comprehensive report on the effects of the recent landslide and flood incidents in the country. He cited the affected areas, the number of casualties, the extent of damage, the emergency response and relief operations of the government, the support of international organizations, and the assistance and recovery needs of the victims. Based on this disaster experience, Mr. Alejandro stressed the importance of a responsive needs assessment, coordinated relief operations, and a comprehensive recovery and rehabilitation plan for the affected communities. As regards policy development, he mentioned the recent presidential directive to conduct hazard mapping of landslide prone areas, the importance of land use policy, and the need to strengthen and institutionalize community-based disaster management program at the community level.

Open Forum:

The following issues were raised and discussed:

- (1) Possible dissemination of the documentary film on Typhoon Maemi
- (2) Institutionalization of community-based disaster management program at the local level in the Philippines
- (3) Institutional linkages on enhancing early warning in the Philippines
- (4) Importance and critical roles of local disaster coordinating councils

Conclusion:

The presentations conveyed that major disasters had occurred in spite of existing programs and efforts in disaster reduction at the country level. They demonstrated the challenge at hand to examine existing gaps in the disaster reduction cycle and the need for continuous effort to seek and enforce more effective disaster countermeasures. The lessons learned from the recent disasters presented conveyed the importance of hazard mapping, effective dissemination of early warning, and enhanced public awareness on hazards and risks. They highlighted also the importance of institutionalizing disaster reduction programs at the community level and improving coordination mechanisms and strengthening cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders in disaster reduction.

Session2 “Sharing best practices in disaster reduction”

15:30-16:50, February 4 (Wed), 2004

Flooding has been a recurring problem in the region and water, as a resource in excess or lack, has become a major concern. This problem area has been addressed by countries such as Viet Nam and Laos, where best practices have existed. This session aimed at presenting and sharing these best practices on water resource management and flood control, highlighting current disaster reduction systems and strategies, particularly in the Mekong River areas, including effective ways of collaboration and cooperation among the affected countries. The session presented also an initiative underway to establish an international research and training center for water hazard and risk management that will address the emerging concerns and problems brought about by water-induced disasters

***Facilitator:** Mr. V. P. Pasrija, Ministry of Home Affairs, India

***Rapporteur:** Mr. Emmanuel de Guzman, Consultant, Asian Disaster Reduction Center

***Speakers:**

- Mr Dang Quang Minh of the Department of Diike Management and Flood Control in Viet Nam
- Mr Phetsavang Sounnalath, director of NDMO in Laos
- Mr Tetsuya Ikeda of the Public Works Research Institute in Japan

Session summary:

Water Resource Management and Flood Control in the Mekong River Delta of Viet Nam

Mr. Dang Quang Minh of the Department of Diike Management and Flood Control in Viet Nam, described the water resource management and flood control system in the country. He cited various government measures for mitigating the impact of floods, which included building residential clusters, flood proof housing, embankment, shifting of crop calendar, and improving flood release capacity, among others. He also discussed some lessons learned from flood incidents. These included quality infrastructure investments, social and infrastructure facilities, public awareness and participation, the poor as target group, integrated coordination planning in lower Mekong basin, child care center model as a cost effective non-structural measure, improvement of flood forecasting system, cooperation among concerned countries, and the promotion and implementation of flood mitigation program. He recommended the establishment of the Regional Flood Management Mitigation Center, a disaster self reliant fund for poor households, application of disaster resistant building regulations, use of ICT for early warning and information sharing, and the improvement of hydrological data sharing with upstream countries. As regards water resource management, Mr. Dang cited the laws and ordinances that comprise the legal framework and the organization and structure for water management. He also discussed several attendant issues and problems and cited the following needs to address them: strengthening infrastructure for regional socio-economic development; investing in water resources infrastructures; improving master plans for water resource system, including flood discharge; and integrated construction of local irrigation system, among others.

Flood Control and Water Resource Management in Laos

Mr. Phetsavang Sounnalath, director of NDMO in Laos, presented the various flood control work in the country, citing prevailing government policies and the challenges at hand. The government policy has been to minimize the detrimental impact of floods and to translate the hazards into possible benefits for the people. This policy has been exemplified in the pursuit of improved networking among meteorological organizations, early warning dissemination, capacity building for government agencies and communities. He cited population growth, flash flood occurrences, inadequate funds, different donor perceptions, and the changing work profile of NGO partners as among the concerns and challenges faced today. As regards, water resources management, Laos is considered to benefit most from hydropower. Mr. Phetsavang cited the existing laws and policies on water resources management and the roles and mandate of the Water Resources Coordination Committee.

Preparation for the establishment of UNESCO International Center for Water Hazard and Risk Management

Mr. Tetsuya Ikeda of the Public Works Research Institute in Japan, discussed the initiative and efforts to establish the said center. He explained the rationale for the center, citing the increasing trend of water-related disasters and the serious concern over climate change. In recognition of water hazard as a major challenge at hand, the center shall undertake research, training, capacity building and information networking as integrated activities. He further informed on the accomplishments and substantial milestones towards the establishment of the center.

Open Forum:

The following issues were raised and discussed:

- (1) Mechanisms for sharing best practices
- (2) Integration of water resources management and flood control and inter-agency coordination
- (3) Role of women in disaster reduction

Transfer of Live Lessons of Catastrophic Disasters.

Mr. Yoshinobu Fukasawa, deputy executive director of the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institute in Kobe, Japan, introduced the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution, the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial, and the Disaster Reduction Alliance established in Kobe, Japan. He briefly described the initiatives of the institution and activities underway, including the transfer of live lessons of disasters, in preparation for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction to be held in Kobe, Japan in January 2005.

Conclusion:

The presentations had described the extent flooding can be controlled and water as a natural resource could be managed for socio-economic development. They highlighted the possible integration of efforts on flood mitigation and water resource management for a more holistic approach to the emerging concerns on water-induced disasters. The presentation conveyed also the importance of enacting policies and laws governing water resource management and flood mitigation at the country level and the coordination and collaboration among stakeholders at various levels and among the concerned countries.

Session3 Cambodian session "Flood Management in Cambodia"

8:00-10:40, February 5 (Thu), 2004

Cambodia has been a country in Asia that has significantly and dynamically moved forward in building its national and local capacity for disaster reduction. This session was aimed at presenting and sharing the interesting developments in the country and the current initiatives of the national government and international organizations concerning disaster reduction. In particular, efforts in flood management and mitigation and early warning systems would be focused on, as well as the coordination and collaboration among stakeholders in Cambodia.

***Facilitator:** Mr. Ross Sovann, Advisor and Aid to the First Vice President, NCDM Cambodia

***Rapporteur:** Mr. Emmanuel de Guzman, Consultant, Asian Disaster Reduction Center

***Speakers:**

- Mr. Peou Samy, Head of Secretariat, NCDM, Cambodia
- Mr. Antony Spalton, head of delegate of IFRC Cambodia
- Mr. Terje Skavdal, regional advisor of UN OCHA Kobe
- Dr. Trong Tu Dao, Mr. Veasna Bun, officers-in-charge of MRC Secretariat
- Mr. Veasna Bun, Programme Officer in charge of MRC Secretariat
- Mr. Hiroto Mitsugi, Deputy Resident Representative, JICA Cambodia Office
- Dr. Uy Sam Ath, Director of Disaster Management Department, Cambodian Red Cross
- Mr. Phoeuk Sok, Country Director of OXFAM
- Ms. Rebecca Hansen, Country Director of WFP and Co-chair of UNDMT

Session summary:

Cambodia's Experience Flood 2000

H.E. Mr. Peou Samy, Head of Secretariat, NCDM, Cambodia, gave a brief overview of the flood problem in the country and discussed the experience in the floods of 2000 which had affected 21 provinces and claimed 347 human lives, mostly children. These floods had also affected the agricultural productivity and damaged major public infrastructures and lifelines. Total cost of losses was estimated at USD 157 million. H.E.

cited the emergency response of the national government, local NGOs and international organizations. He mentioned the constraints encountered by the national government, including the inadequacy of flood forecasting and early warning systems as well as damage and needs assessment system. Also, the national policy on disaster management was not yet officially approved then, including the development of the NCDM. Nevertheless, the country had embarked on a post-flood capacity building program that established the legal framework and policies for disaster management and the development of disaster management information system and disaster preparedness and mitigation programs. H.E. concluded that disaster management is an integral part of poverty alleviation has become an important strategy for pursuing sustainable development.

Disaster Management Coordination in Cambodia

Mr. Antony Spalton, head of delegate of IFRC Cambodia, discussed the priorities of the federation in the country, foremost of which is the strengthening the capacity of CRC at all levels. He mentioned the current focus on community level risk reduction and preparedness and the advocacy mainstreaming risk reduction measures. He elaborated on the requirements of coordination in the country and the country's track record and accomplishments in disaster management. He considered the continuous capacity building efforts in the country as a major challenge now, particularly the institutional development and strengthening of the leadership role of NCDM.

Training Workshops in Cambodia

Mr. Terje Skavdal, regional advisor of UN OCHA Kobe, discussed the training initiatives UN OCHA and ADRC have jointly supported in Cambodia. He elaborated on the principles of liability, greatest possible similarity and the lowest effective operational level, which have been applied in the pursuit of the training activities. He mentioned the objectives of the training, foremost of which was the provision of formal orientation to the participants on disaster damage and needs assessments. He also mentioned the methodology applied and the outcome of the trainings. Overall, he concluded, that the trainings were received positively and that they should be seen as an integral part of the process of strengthening national disaster response mechanisms.

Flood Forecasting and Early Warning of the Mekong River Commission

Dr. Trong Tu Dao, officer-in-charge of MRC Secretariat, and **Mr. Veasna Bun**, Programme Officer in charge of MRC Secretariat discussed the community flood forecast and warning system of the MRC and the tools, methods and protocols for dissemination and use of MRC-prepared flood information. He showed the initiatives at the community level, such as flood mark installation and setting up of community billboards, characterized by community participation and close partnership with American Red Cross and the Cambodian Red Cross.

JICA's Cooperation for Disaster Prevention in Cambodia

Mr. Hiroto Mitsugi, Deputy Resident Representative, JICA Cambodia Office, presented the disaster management activities of JICA in Cambodia and its thrust on improving social and economic infrastructure and the strengthening of flood and disaster response capacity in urban areas. He cited the study on hydro-meteorological monitoring for water quantity rules in the Mekong River Basin, the grant-aid projects and the improvement of bridges on the national highway, among others.

Flood Response in Year 2000 by Cambodian Red Cross

Dr. Uy Sam Ath, Director of Disaster Management Department, Cambodian Red Cross, described the extent and impact of the floods in 2000 and 2002, and the disaster response operations undertaken by CRC. He cited some lessons learned from the incidents, foremost of which was the integration of disaster response and preparedness into the NCDM national plan.

Joint Oxfam Disaster Management Programme: Flood Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Phoeuk Sok, Country Director of OXFAM, presented a profile of the flood rehabilitation project in Cambodia, including the activities on cash for work, seed and tools distribution, wells and harvesting structures and deep tube wells, hygiene promotion, community boats, hand pumps, flood proof housing and warehouse construction, among others. He also briefly discussed the various learning points from these activities.

Partnership in Disaster Management in Cambodia

Ms. Rebecca Hansen, Country Director of WFP and Co-chair of UNDMT, described the composition of the team and how it contributes to disaster management in the country. For the team's activities and thrusts, she cited the development of joint needs assessment methodology, improvement of coordination, use of existing forums, contingency planning, capacity building, and linking relief to disaster mitigation. She elaborated on the elements of partnership among the UNDMT members, the achievements, lessons learned and challenges. She cited the enhancement of scenario building as priority next step.

Open Forum:

The following issues were raised and discussed:

- (1) Community risk communication plan
- (2) Local partnership for community development and disaster management
- (3) Role of the CRC in early warning
- (4) Enhancement of meteorological capacity of Cambodia
- (5) Building the capacity of NCDM as national focal point and coordinator for disaster management.

Conclusion:

In concluding the session, **H.E. Mr. Peou Samy**, Head of Secretariat, NCDM, Cambodia, gave a brief summary of the main points and highlights of the presentations. The presentations had shown the major developments and initiatives underway on disaster reduction in the country. Moreover, they had effectively demonstrated the dynamic cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders in the country, particularly towards building and enhancing national and local capacity for disaster reduction. The session had emphasized the importance of coordination and collaboration in disaster reduction, especially the local community level.

2. Meeting of the ADRC Members Countries

8:00-8:30 February 6 (Fri), 2004

Venue: City Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Mr. Katsuhiko Hara, Director for Disaster Preparedness of the Cabinet Office of Japan chaired the meeting and firstly delivered the opening remarks to the delegates of ADRC member countries.

ADRC reported on the financial settlements for fiscal year 2002 and the budget plan for 2003 as well as activities carried out in 2002 and the work plan for 2003, all of which were approved by the delegates of member countries.

In the meeting, a representative of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) introduced a letter expressing the intention of U.S.A. to be an ADRC advisor country. This statement was warmly welcomed by the delegates with applause.

Note: The United States of America officially joined ADRC as an advisor country on March 8, 2004 following the due procedures.

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

The 3rd ISDR Asian Meeting is described below.

- 1) Date: February 5 (Thur) - 6 (Fri), 2004

- 2) Organizers: UN/ISDR, Governments of Cambodia and Japan
- 3) Participants: 138 (government officials from 22 member countries, representatives of 24 international and regional organizations and others)
- 4) Venue: Hotel City Angkor, Siem Reap, Cambodia

**Panel discussion1 “Building partnerships and networks for disaster reduction in Asia”
11:00-12:30, February 5 (Thu), 2004**

Disasters are a major drain on all societies and particularly devastating for the developing countries of the Asian Region. While the resources are limited on one hand the, hard won achievements of years and decades are eroded very quickly on the other. Every disaster thus pushes back the development process. Disasters are a major challenge for all countries, people and organizations which are working towards a safer and better society.

Disaster reduction and mitigation measures can be strengthened in the Asian countries through efficient and effective international cooperation. Keeping in view the transnational nature of many disasters a multi-lateral approach forging partnerships and networks combined with sharing of experiences and learning of lessons from each other is called for.

Objectives:

The objectives of the session were as follows:

- 1) *To discuss how to build partnerships and networks for effective disaster reduction in Asia.*
- 2) *To share the methodologies and experiences of some existing partnerships and networks so as to draw lessons from them.*
- 3) *To consolidate and enlarge the networks to promote effective and meaningful cooperation.*
- 4) *To suggest practical and concrete measures for enhancing cooperation and information sharing along with better capacities for information management for effective disaster reduction.*

***Facilitator:** Mr. Earl Kessler, Deputy Executive Director, ADPC

***Rapporteur:** Dr. Le Huu Ti, Economic Affairs Officer, UN/ESCAP

***Panelists:**

- Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Executive Director, ADRC
- Dr. Li Tianchi, Programme Manager, ICIMOD
- Mr. Akira Sasaki, Deputy Director General, IFNet
- Mr. Haris Sanahuja, Programme Officer, ISDR Secretariat

***Commentator:** Mr. Thomas Brennan, Disaster Reduction Advisor, UNDP-Bureau for Crisis & Prevention Recovery (Bangkok)

Summary of discussion:

1. Importance of partnership and networking

In recognizing that disaster management is a MUST for sustainable development, all panelists confirmed that partnership and networking are absolutely necessary for effective disaster management, which involves multi-sectors and stakeholders. Partnership and networking provides greater opportunities for synergy of efforts. Partnership and networking with clear objectives may become important instruments towards sustainable development, such as conceived by the International Flood Network (IFNet) to help break the vicious circle of threat caused by annual floods to poverty eradication and sustainable development.

2. Scope of partnership and networking

Partnership is recognized as an important instrument to influence policy makers in disaster management and to enhance public awareness and human psychology for better disaster reduction. As effective partnership and networking require standardized tools and

methodologies, partnership should aim to develop and promote standardized tools and methodologies. All panelists recognized the importance of information communication and technology in disaster management, partnership should provide opportunities for better access to advanced technology, such as the Global Flood Alert System, which is expected to provide opportunities to more countries to get access to latest achievements in rainfall monitoring and forecasts using satellites for better flood forecasts and warnings.

3. Sustaining partnership and networking

From the experiences of past and existing partnerships and networks, the panelists considered essential that partnership and networking must be based on common interests and commitment. Effective partnership must be guided by clear and pragmatic shared vision and linked to the national platforms on disaster risk reduction.

4. Meeting future challenges

The meeting took note of the importance attached to partnership by the countries and international donor communities for disaster management in Asia such as demonstrated through the work of ADPC, ADRC, ICIMOD, IFNet and MRC. As the socio-economic impact of disasters continue to rise in Asia, it is important to consider partnership in that context. The Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction to be held in Kobe will offer an opportunity to further development partnership and networking in Asia, it remains an important task for all to demonstrate how to address various partnership issues from now to Kobe Conference and beyond. For this purpose, several participants recommended to promote good practices through partnership and networking to effective learning and to promote public awareness with clear and detailed programmes of action.

Panel discussion2 “Review of achievements and challenges in disaster reduction in Asia —seeking concrete and effective measures—”

10:30-12:30, February 6 (Fri), 2004

Since the decade of the nineties marked by IDNDR and its mid-term review, the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction held in Yokohama in 1994, the international community has undertaken increasing efforts to implement disaster mitigation and reduction measures. In this context there has been a greater understanding of natural hazards and disaster risks arising from them as also vulnerability reduction along with better coping mechanisms to deal with disasters. Yet, the world is witnessing a steady increase in the number of affected people and material losses due to natural disasters.

In view of the above there is, therefore, an urgent need to discuss, debate and understand the causes of the trends and the emerging new challenges so as to move towards effective measures in the 21st century. It is imperative to examine the current development practices in order to devise means and tools of appropriate investments in various facets of development.

Objectives:

The objectives of the session were as follows:

- 1) To discuss and review the disaster situation in Asia along with efforts made by the countries and the international community to reduce the negative impacts of disasters.*
- 2) To understand the underlying causes behind the trends of the increase in the number of affected people and material losses, increase in the intensity and frequency of extreme events.*
- 3) To discuss and share the best practices followed in various countries and the region and identify better and more effective ways of their dissemination.*
- 4) To promote a better understanding of the challenges to disaster reduction in Asia and encourage incorporation of appropriate policies in the national development process in the countries.*

***Facilitator:** Dr. Le Huu Ti, Economic Affairs Officer, UN/ESCAP

***Rapporteur:** Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Executive Director, ADRC

***Panelists:**

- Dr. Patrick Safran, Planning and Policy Officer, ADB
- Mr. Earl Kessler, Deputy Executive Director, ADPC
- Dr. Ian Wilderspin, IFRC Regional Disaster Management Coordinator for Southeast Asia
- Mr. Chiu-ying Lam, Director of Hong Kong Observatory, Vice-President of Regional Association II (Asia), WMO

***Commentator:** Mr. Thomas Brennan, Disaster Reduction Advisor, UNDP-Bureau for Crisis & Prevention Recovery (Bangkok)

Summary of discussion:

1. Achievements since the 1994 Yokohama Conference

The panel was provided with valuable information from the facilitator on the achievements in disaster reduction, emerging challenges to effective disaster risk management and the priority activities at the local, national and regional levels, based on the comments in the questionnaire distributed previously to the participants. Framework of disaster management, community based disaster management, risk management, information management, relief and recovery proved to be the most common achievements made in the countries in Asia. Emerging challenges and priority areas suggested are highlighted below.

2. Investment in disaster reduction

Recognizing that disaster reduction is a must for sustainable development, the importance of "investment for disaster reduction" was shared by the panel and the floor. The recent recognition of policy by an international banking institution provides opportunities for investment for "prevention". These investments include those for the provision of relevant information, such as the basic weather information which will enable issuance of vital "warnings with a heart" to prompt people to take responsive actions, so as to minimize human and economic losses from disasters. It is also important to increase the understanding of people and policy makers of the necessity to invest for disaster reduction.

3. Integration of disaster reduction in development process

The panel took note that mainstreaming disaster reduction into national development plans and policies must be the first step to ensure sustainable development. This would involve various crucial measures such as the establishment of disaster management legislation and a national disaster management committee. Identification and evaluation of risk is essential to identify suitable measures for effective disaster prevention and mitigation. Institutionalising disaster risk reduction programmes at the community level is equally important. It was emphasized that the major challenge we face is how to translate disaster reduction concepts into practice and build a culture of prevention throughout the region.

4. Practical tools and standardization for action

It was recognized that the development of practical tools is essential for sharing information to encourage effective implementation of disaster reduction measures. The use of GLIDE is an example of practical tool to ensure the effective provision and sharing of disaster information. We also need to create standardization to widely share information. Transfer of scientific knowledge into practice is necessary so that people can use it for disaster reduction. Use of effective hazard maps, when they are used in an appropriate way, should increase the awareness of community and develop its disaster preparedness, thus contributes to effective early warning.

5. Urban vulnerability

Urban vulnerability in Asia is growing due to unplanned urban growth and rapid population migration into cities. Once a disaster occurs, its direct and secondary impacts can be enormous. Therefore, it is indispensable to incorporate measures to reduce urban vulnerability and risks to disasters. Introduction of comprehensive approach to disaster reduction and integration of disaster management in the urban planning programme would be crucial to achieve sustainable development.

6. Highlighting success stories and best practices

Highlighting success stories and best practices is vital to ensure effective implementation of disaster reduction strategies. It was recognized that we need to learn from success stories and best practices in the region and should realize their positive impact.

7. Multi-sectoral and holistic approaches and “National Platforms” for disaster reduction

We need to promote multi-sectoral and holistic approaches to disaster reduction. This can be demonstrated by the Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) approach, which encourages involving all sectors of societies and communities such as, among others, development, agriculture, urban planning, education, media, and the academia, to apply proactive efforts for disaster reduction. Partnerships among them should facilitate the promotion of disaster risk reduction initiatives and the enhancement of public awareness as well as understanding of disaster risks. These partnerships may highlight their achievements and further voice the need for “investment for disaster reduction”. The challenge for the development of “National Platforms” for disaster reduction is to build this kind of proactive partnerships in each country.



Fig.2-1-2-2 Panel discussion 2 “Review of achievements and challenges in disaster reduction in Asia —seeking concrete and effective measures—”

Senior policy makers panel “Evolution of disaster reduction policies in Asia”

15:30-17:00, February 6 (Fri), 2004

Disaster vulnerability is essentially a function of the way in which people interact with nature. This takes into account the development models, practices and paradigms followed in different countries. The key to success in disaster mitigation and prevention consists of various integrants such as alleviating poverty, protecting environment and natural resources, and addressing several other attendant issues along with involvement and cooperation of the community and all other stakeholders. It is also necessary to recognize that there are many common and overlapping issues for different interest groups in the society. Various issues and approaches towards disaster reduction, therefore, have to be discussed in the context of the overall development policy. In the light of these