

4. Promotion of Collaboration in Disaster Reduction

4-1. Collaboration with the UN organizations

With support from the Cabinet Office of Japan, ADRC has been promoting cooperation and collaboration with various UN organizations such as, among others, UN/ISDR, UN/OCHA, UNESCO, UNU, UN/ESCAP, WHO and WMO.

4-1-1. Collaboration with UN/ISDR

ADRC is working in close collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) in promoting worldwide disaster reduction activities.

4-1-1-1. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

With a strong recognition of the need for international and regional collaboration in disaster reduction efforts, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in 1987, designating the 1990's as the "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR)" to promote disaster reduction activities in order to drastically reduce the negative impact of natural disasters. The activities of IDNDR were supported by national committees of more than 140 countries. The Decade, however, was completed in 1999.

Following the Decade, the United Nations General Assembly put forth a proposal on November 1, 1999, prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to launch a new program "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)" to carry on with the efforts made by IDNDR. The proposal included the establishment of an Inter-Agency Task Force and an inter-agency secretariat for the implementation of ISDR as well as the continuation and reinforcement of the national committees established through IDNDR.

The main objectives of the ISDR are 1) to increase the capacity of societies and communities to cope with natural disasters, and 2) to shift from post-disaster response to disaster reduction and risk management.

In addition, activities to 1) increase public awareness of disaster risks, 2) encourage active participation of public authorities in disaster reduction, 3) stimulate inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral partnership and networking at all levels, as well as to 4) improve further the scientific knowledge of natural hazards and disasters were proposed as the 4 core activities of the ISDR.

The resolution was adopted at the UN GA in December 1999, and the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the ISDR was established in January 2000 as the principal mechanism of the UN to implement the strategy under the supervision of the Under Secretary-General (USG) for Humanitarian Affairs.

The main roles assigned to the ISDR Secretariat were to: 1) act as the center of various international disaster reduction activities implemented by the UN, 2) provide support to the Inter-Agency Task Force, 3) promote a worldwide culture of prevention, 4) serve as an international clearing house for the dissemination and exchange of information and knowledge on disaster reduction strategies, and 5) to provide assistance to national committees in each country.

The Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Disaster Reduction consists of members from UN agencies, civil society and regional representatives, with the USG for Humanitarian Affairs of the UN as the Chairman and the Director of the ISDR secretariat as the Secretary. The roles assigned to the IATF include: 1) preparing proposals concerning disaster reduction strategies and policies of the UN, 2) presiding over the results of each policy, 3) establishing inter-agency coordination of policies implemented by different agencies, 4) providing guidance to the ISDR Secretariat on the policies and 5) making arrangements for meetings of disaster reduction professionals. ADRC became a member of the IATF as a regional representative in April 2002 and has been attending the Meetings held in Geneva twice a year, in spring and fall.

In addition to the promotion of the four core activities of the ISDR Secretariat mentioned above, the IATF members are encouraged to: participate in working groups. Four working groups were established in 2000: WG1 on Climate and Disasters, WG2 on Early Warning, WG3 on Risk, Vulnerability and Impact Assessments, and WG4 on Wildland fires, to assess the relationships between these factors and disasters. ADRC participates in the activities of two groups, WG2 and WG3, and is actively working on these issues. It is planned that three of the four working groups, WG1, WG2, and WG4, will be dissolved soon while the WG3 will keep its operation until the end of 2004. Instead, four new working groups will be launched as follows: WG1 on World Conference on Disaster Reduction; WG2 on Reducing Urban Risk and Vulnerability; WG3 on Reducing Risk for Adapting to Climate Change; and WG4 on Disaster Reduction in Africa. ADRC will participate in the activities of the WG1 (World Conference on Disaster Reduction) and WG2 (Reducing Urban Risk and Vulnerability).



Fig.4-1-1-1 8th meeting of the IATF

4-1-1-2. Second International Conference on Early Warning (EWC II)

ADRC participated in the Second International Conference on Early Warning (EWC II) held in Bonn, Germany on October 16-18, 2003, hosted by the Government of Germany under the auspices of the United Nations, supported by the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR). The EWC II built upon regional consultations and workshops which took place in various regions in 2003. Participants actively discussed how to reduce the negative impacts of hazards through improving early warning systems, and defined clear targets and accepted their respective responsibilities.

On this occasion, a session entitled "Effective Early Warning - use of hazard maps as a tool for effective risk communication among policy makers and communities" was organized by the Government of Japan on October 17 and was chaired by ADRC. After the two keynote speeches by experts from the Cabinet Office and the Infrastructure Development Institute of the Government of Japan, Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Executive Director, ADRC, moderated a panel discussion on the effectiveness of hazard mapping as a tool to raise awareness and to enhance early warning with the panelists invited from Bangladesh, Korea, Philippines and Viet Nam. It was emphasized that hazard mapping is useful to raise awareness of the community when it is conducted in cooperation with all the stakeholders and with the consideration of each community's context. It was also agreed that the development of hazard mapping manuals adapted to local conditions and training would be useful to enhance early warning systems.



Fig.4-1-1-2 Session on “Effective Early Warning – use of hazard maps as a tool for effective risk communication among policy makers and communities”

4-1-1-3. Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2004

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2004 was held from 4 to 6 February 2004 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, 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).

The conference was held as part of a series of international and regional events serving as preparatory consultations for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction to be held in Hyogo, Japan in 2005. The World Conference is expected to mark a major milestone of global efforts towards a safer world. In this context, this meeting in Cambodia provided a unique platform to identify challenges and concrete future action to mitigate the negative impact of disasters in our region by way of important contribution to the Conference.

For more information, see Chapter 2-1-2

4-1-1-4. World Conference on Disaster Reduction

On the occasion of the mid-term review of the IDNDR in 1994, 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”, adopted by the participants, 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 by local, national, regional and international actors undertaken during the last decade.

The review of the Yokohama Strategy was endorsed by the General Assembly in December 2001 (resolution 56/195) to examine thoroughly the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action in cooperation with Governments and concerned agencies and organizations. 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 UN General Assembly adopted a resolution A/RES/58/214 in December 2003 to convene a World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo designed to foster specialized discussions and produce concrete changes and results in disaster reduction. The main objectives are:

- a) To conclude the review of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action, with a view to updating the guiding framework on disaster reduction for the twenty-first century;
- b) To identify specific activities aimed at ensuring the implementation of relevant

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- provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management;
- c) To share best practices and lessons learned to further disaster reduction, within the context of attaining sustainable development, and to identify gaps and challenges;
 - d) To increase awareness of the importance of disaster reduction policies, thereby facilitating and promoting the implementation of those policies; and
 - e) To increase the reliability and availability of appropriate disaster-related information to the public and disaster management agencies in all regions, as set out in relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

The upcoming World Conference on Disaster Reduction will represent a milestone event to increase the international profile of disaster risk reduction and promote its integration into development planning and practice in order to strengthen local and national capacities to address the causes of disasters which continue to devastate and impede the development of many countries. A Programme of Action for the decade, 2005-2015, is expected to be produced by the Conference.

ADRC has been actively contributing and will continue to contribute to the preparatory process of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction to be held on 18-22 January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo, including the review of the Yokohama Strategy.

4-1-2. Collaboration with UN/OCHA Kobe

With support from the Cabinet Office of Japan and Hyogo prefecture, ADRC has been promoting cooperation and collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA) since February 2000. The OCHA Asian Disaster Response Unit (OCHA Kobe since 2001) was established to jointly implement disaster management programs in Asia.

4-1-2-1. OCHA Asian Disaster Response Unit

ADRC has been working closely with the Unit through promoting the Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) approach. ADRC and OCHA Kobe jointly organized a training workshop (June) and an international conference (December), and carried out cooperative projects with member countries in Cambodia (April-June), Philippines (October) and Vietnam (November) in the fiscal year 2003. For further details, see Chap. 2-2 and Chap. 4-2

4-1-2-2. OCHA/ReliefWeb

The OCHA/ReliefWeb is an Internet-based clearinghouse operated by OCHA, over which it collects and disseminates reliable disaster information in a timely manner to support humanitarian activities. ADRC, since its foundation, has been providing a link to the ReliefWeb on its own homepage for easy access to the UN information. The ReliefWeb also has a link to the ADRC website to make better use of information collected from various countries.

4-1-3. Collaboration with UNESCO

ADRC has been working in close partnership with UNESCO in the field of disaster reduction. The main activities carried out in partnership in 2003 are described below.

4-1-3-1. UNESCO Mid-term Meeting on the Cross-cutting Theme Initiative

ADRC participated in the Mid-term Meeting on the UNESCO Cross-cutting Theme Initiative "Reduction of Natural Disasters in Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean," held on 25-26 September 2003 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. The goal of the Initiative was to promote sustainable development by reducing the impact of natural disasters, saving lives and reducing losses through the incorporation of risk

management as an integral part of public policy and development processes. The Meeting was held to report on the progress of the project in the participating cities, Antofagasta (Chile), Dehradun (India), Kathmandu (Nepal), and Tijuana (Mexico), and to share experience gained from the project and other similar efforts. Active discussion took place during the two-day meeting on how to apply the project's assessment and evaluation results in urban planning and public policy. A representative of ADRC served as the rapporteur of the last panel discussion "Recommendations for Future Activities".



Fig.4-1-3-1 Opening Ceremony of the UNESCO Meeting

4-1-3-2. Session on Disaster Reduction for the Caucasus and Central Asia

On the occasion of the International Conference on TDRM held in Kobe on 2-4 December 2003, ADRC, with support from UNESCO and in cooperation with UN/ISDR, organized a meeting on disaster reduction for the Caucasus and Central Asia 1) to introduce the basic concept of TDRM to be promoted in the Caucasus and Central Asia; 2) to discuss how better to apply TDRM in the Caucasus and Central Asia and how ADRC, ISDR and UNESCO could encourage the process; 3) to establish a collaborative network of participants from the Caucasus and Central Asia and of those interested in the region for information.

The status of disaster management in the following framework was reported and discussed.

- Current trends and impact of disasters in each country
- Major obstacles and major challenges in disaster management based on the experience of the participant
- Possible ways to apply TDRM with the context of the Caucasus and Central Asia
- Concrete actions that should be taken after this meeting for the adaptation of TDRM in the Caucasus and Central Asia

An active exchange of views about the topics above produced the conclusion as follows:

The participants recognized the current status, existing problems as well as future challenges in promoting comprehensive disaster risk management in their respective countries. It was made out that lack of awareness and preparedness is a common concern in the Caucasus and Central Asia. In order to raise awareness of societies and communities, the adoption of TDRM, taking the local context into consideration, would be the key to success. Another problem shared in the region seems to be lack of coordination mechanism and enabling instruments at different levels, for which TDRM advocates. A need for the enhancement of collaboration among all sectors and disciplines was also stressed.

However, not many concrete measures to apply TDRM in the regional and local context were proposed during the meeting. This would be the area that needs to be further discussed and where UNESCO, UN/ISDR and ADRC could assist. Recognizing the current status and problems is a starting point of implementing TDRM. It would be important to further discuss among the concerned bodies to find the best way in each country to introduce and adapt TDRM in the pursuit of sustainable development of the region.

4-1-4. Collaboration with UNU

ADRC has been working closely with the United Nations University (UNU) and has strengthened partnership through the joint organization of two public forums the United Nations University in the fiscal year 2003.

4-1-4-1. Public Forum on Earthquake Risk Reduction

On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Great Kanto Earthquake and the 2003 International Disaster Reduction Day, ADRC organized a public forum, "Living with Risk - are we prepared for the next big one?", on October 4 (Sat) at UNU in Tokyo. The forum was co-organized with the United Nations University (UNU), Cabinet Office of Japan, ISDR Secretariat, World Seismic Safety Initiative (WSSI), and ADRC, and with great cooperation from NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation).

The forum provided an opportunity to discuss the current status and challenges of earthquake disaster preparedness in Japan. Speakers were Dr. Tsuneo Katayama, President, National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED), and Dr. Kimiro Meguro, Associate Professor, University of Tokyo, and Prof. Haresh Shah, Professor of Stanford University, as well as Dr. David Mammen, President, Institute of Public Administration (IPA). Mr. Tsuyoshi Matsuo of NHK played a crucial role as a coordinator of the forum.

4-1-4-2. Public Forum on Catastrophic Flood Disaster Reduction

Commemorating the World Water Day, on March 22nd and the World Meteorological Day on Mar 23rd, a Public Forum titled "Catastrophic Floods: Hidden Vulnerability of Mega Cities" was held at UNU in Tokyo on March 23, 2004, co-organized by the United Nations University (UNU), Cabinet Office of Japan and ISDR Secretariat as well as ADRC, and supported by NHK. The objectives of the forum were to address the important issue of how to shift a 'fail-safe' approach to 'safe-fail' mechanisms in flood control, and to raise public awareness of international cooperation in disaster reduction toward the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction to be held in 2005.

Speakers were: Prof. Masaru Morita, Shibaura Institute of Technology, Mr. Koji Yamamoto, Former Director-General, Japan Meteorological Agency, and Prof. Keiichi Toda, Kyoto University, as well as Ms. Lorna Victoria, Director of Center for Disaster Preparedness Foundation, Philippines. They delivered presentations titled "Community role for flood management: Learning from the history", "Flood related prediction technology and trends of global warming", and "Community participation for flood loss reduction" respectively.



Fig.4-1-4-2 Panelists of the Public Forum

4-1-5. Collaboration with UN/ESCAP

ADRC has been working closely with the United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (UN/ESCAP) in the pursuit of reducing disasters in Asia, in particular, climate and water related disasters. ADRC participated positively in the activities of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee in the fiscal year 2003, in collaboration with the Government of Japan, to promote hazard mapping in member countries as a tool for risk communication for disaster reduction. ADRC also contributed to the activities of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones as described above.

4-1-5-1. ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee

ADRC participated in the 36th ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee (TC) held on 15-20 December 2003 in Malaysia. In the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Component, which is one of three components of TC, ADRC circulated an updated list of Internet web sites that TC Members can access for meteorology, hydrology and disaster prevention and preparedness information and invited the Committee Members to provide additional information or correction to enable it to update the list.

In addition, at the request of the TC hydrology component, ADRC participated in the meeting of Typhoon Committee Working Group on Hydrology held on 27-28 February 2004 in Korea. This meeting was conducted for the preparation of the 2004 Seoul Workshop in September 2004. ADRC will organize a training programme on flood hazard mapping in the workshop.

4-1-6. Collaboration with WMO

Collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has been strengthened through the promotion of the GLIDE initiative (GLobal unique disaster IDentifier number) as well as through the activities of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclone and the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee.

4-1-6-1. Collaboration in the GLIDE initiative

WMO has been involved actively in the GLIDE initiative, which ADRC had developed in cooperation with CRED and ReliefWeb, as a tool to enhance disaster information sharing, in particular, information sharing of meteorological disasters such as typhoons, hurricanes and cyclones. WMO agreed to apply GLIDE for new tropical cyclones (including typhoons, hurricanes and cyclones) and proposed hazard codes for hydro-meteorological disasters for the application of GLIDE. For further details regarding the GLIDE initiative, see Chapter 3-3-3.