



モデルコミュニティでのタウンウォッチング (バングラデシュ)

Town Watching in DRR Model Communities, Bangladesh

Newsletter

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Bangladesh

JICA Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project: Project on Capacity Building for Community-Based DRR in Urban Areas of Bangladesh

Town Watching in DRR Model Communities

SEEDS Asia conducted a town watching in each model community as a leader training day two. This follows the training day one held on June 14. DRR leaders from the model communities participated in these training sessions. In the town watching, DRR leaders walked around their areas and identified dangerous, safe, useful, and favorite places/things, and then marked each of them on a map. At the beginning some members said that there was no need to walk around because they knew each street very well. However, they later said that they were surprised and amazed to find points they did not notice so far as they had never walked on these streets in their everyday life with an intention as the above. Based on the experiences and findings at the town watching, each community discussed what are needed and what they can do to make their community stronger toward disasters, and made an annual DRR action plan.



Town Watching in a Model Community

Media Fellowship Program and News Managers' Round Table on DRR

In our community based DRR project in Dhaka, the activities involving mass media also plays an important part since mass media has a power to reach out to a number of general public and raise awareness of DRR. SEEDS Asia launched a media fellowship program in July and selected ten fellow journalists from each of Bangladesh's leading newspaper publishing companies, broadcasters, and news service agencies. They will spend two months to work on their own topic to write a report relating to DRR, which includes preparedness at schools/hospitals, building code regulations, various urban disasters, business continuity plan at disaster, urban volunteers, etc. The reports will be released on their respective newspapers/TV channels on around 13th October, the International Day for Disaster

Reduction.

For the meaningful and continuous news reports, it is also crucial that not only field journalists but also news managers understand the importance of DRR and the role of media in DRR reporting because the news managers are the ones who decide which news to be reported. On 20th July, SEEDS Asia organized a news managers' round table on DRR inviting senior editors from Bangladesh's leading media organizations. Japan's disaster reporting was introduced by SEEDS Asia, and the floor discussed the importance of providing accurate information, including DRR aspects into reporting, and treating disaster reporting not as a sensational reporting for the moment but as a continuous reporting. The recommendations agreed at the wrap up session include starting to have a disaster beat in newsrooms, and media's playing a role to put pressure so that DRR perspective would be reflected into a policy.



New Managers' Roundtable on DRR



India

Project for Participatory Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Approaches in Varanasi, funded by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA)

SEEDS Asia has been promoting a model of community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) by establishing five 'Climate Schools (CS)' as focal points of DRR/climate change education, and five 'Citizen Forums (CF)' in each CS area. The activities carried out in July and August 2017 were as follows.

1) ToT on Town-watching Training

Town-watching training (TW training) aims to prepare for disasters in the community by tracing the history of disasters at schools and neighbourhood, finding evacuation places for the cases of emergency and making an action plan and carrying it out. Last July, the SEEDS Asia conducted its Training of Trainers (ToT) in order for CS teachers to become TW training trainers. This year, these teachers as trainers provide ToT to fifteen teachers of their three outreach schools.

ToT was carried out at Sri Agrasen Kanya Inter College on 21st July and at Aryan International School on 31st July. In spite of the busiest time immediately after the commencement of a new academic term, the principals understood the importance of training and encouraged the teachers to find time between classes to attend the training.

"I believe that my students will be interested in this training and so I want to conduct it soon," "What I learned should be shared not only with my students but also with those who suffered from the last flood. Let's organise a training in February before their plantation starts," they commented. These teachers will conduct the training for sixty students at their respective schools.



Town-Watching Training (ToT)

2) Prahari Editorial Meeting

On 16th July, a meeting was organised to discuss the progress and upcoming events of the project with CS representative teachers. The student newspaper, Prahari, in particular, required them to actively participate in the process of developing its website by bringing innovative ideas, examining them in detail and collaborating with each other. This first meeting marked the successful start with various opinions and interesting discussions.

3) Exercise books in progress

The project has been developing two kinds of exercise books. Banaras Hindu University is in charge of climate and weather while SEEDS Asia works on DRR. The exercise books will consist of thirty year disaster history in Varanasi city, Sadhus' observation on Ganges River and a weather diary. For the part of history, the Varanasi team collected data from newspapers in English and Hindi in libraries, archive centres and newspaper companies for two months in June and July.



Work in Library



Myanmar

USAID MCCDDM Project: Myanmar Consortium for Capacity Development on Disaster Management

Completion of the Project

MCCDDM Project: Myanmar Consortium for Capacity Development on Disaster Management was successfully completed in the end of July, 2017 which had been funded by USAID. The project was implemented by six organizations: UNHABITAT/UNDP/Myanmar Red Cross & American Red Cross/ACTED/SEEDS Asia and five technical agencies: UNICEF, HelpAge, Handicap International, ASHOKA as a consortium members. The aim of the project was to develop capacities on disaster management in wide range of stakeholders through building partnerships. In this project, SEEDS Asia implemented disaster management research and awareness activities in collaboration with project counterpart, Relief and Resettlement Department, Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement (RRD), Yangon Technological University (YTU) and Dagon University.

In order to report and reflect the experiences and lessons learnt, final workshop was held on 27th June at Disaster Management Training Centre in Hinthada township. Following the event, "Reflection Workshop" was also held on 20th-21st July in Yangon and the project achievements and challenges were shared among the consortium members.

By taking this opportunity, SEEDS Asia would like to express our sincere appreciation to all supports and contributors for this project!



Final Workshop



Memorandum of Understanding Signing with Naga City



Philippines (Cebu)

JICA Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project: Support Project on Promotion of School Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Cebu Province

Memorandum of Understanding Signing with City of Naga and Meeting with Mayors

On 2nd August, the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the City Government of Naga, one of the pilot areas of the project, SEEDS Asia and the Department of Education (DepEd) Naga City Division was held in the city hall in order to strengthen the partnership for the promotion of School Disaster Risk Reduction Management. The City Mayor, Hon. Kristine Vanessa T. Chiong, signed the MOU on behalf of the City of Naga, whereas the Schools Division Superintendent, Dr. Senen P. Paulin, signed for DepEd Naga City Division. Witness signatories to the ceremony are: the Officer-In-Charge of Naga City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (DRRMO), Hon. Carmelino Cruz; Naga City Division DRRM Coordinator, Mr. Conrado Dejarne Jr.; and Ms. Jennifer Acedillo, the School Head of Uling Elementary School, the nominated pilot school which promotes School Disaster Risk Reduction. The City Mayor has expressed her strong support for the project and requested the close involvement of their DRRM Officer in its implementation. Furthermore, Mayor Hon. Chiong has said that they hope to have the ripple effect of the project on other schools in the City of Naga. SEEDS Asia also met Cebu City Mayor on 28th June, Daanbantayan Municipal Mayor on 21st July, and Carcar City Mayor on 3rd August. SEEDS Asia is also finalizing MoU signings with them to promote the cooperation between education administrations and Disaster Risk Reduction administrations of local government units of pilot areas.

Baseline survey (School Disaster Resilience Assessment)

As part of establishing the baseline data to be referred to in the project, SEEDS Asia conducted a School Disaster Resilience Assessment (SDRA) survey for the whole month of July (3rd -27th July). A total of thirty schools were surveyed from ten pilot areas, three schools each including a pilot school in each area. The SDRA was conducted through an interview with the school heads and school Disaster Risk Reduction and Management focal persons. The questionnaire was designed to assess the level of school's resilience to cope with natural disasters using five dimensions such as the physical condition, human resources, organizational issues, external relationships and natural conditions. Based on the results, SEEDS Asia will make efforts to strengthen good points and solve problems of each area and school.

Fruits of previous project, celebration of National Disaster Consciousness Month

The month of July is the National Disaster Consciousness Month in the Philippines. On 21st July, SEEDS Asia was invited by Daanbantayan Central Elementary School to witness their celebration of the Month. Daanbantayan Central Elementary School was one of the DRR Education Model Schools from the previously concluded project of SEEDS Asia. Students starting from kindergarten to Grade 6 participated in several activities such as DRR speech choir, bucket relay, DRR essay writing, emergency cooking, DRR obstacle course, DRR slogan and poster making. On 4th August, SEEDS Asia was also invited to witness the culminating activity organized by the Department of Education Lapu-Lapu City Division at its auditorium in Celebration of the National Disaster Consciousness Month with the support of the Lapu-Lapu City Government. Total of 750 people including both elementary and high school students from ten different school districts participated in this event. Students competed in contests based on the 21 Disaster Risk and Reduction Education activities introduced by SEEDS Asia in the previous project. This whole-day event was held for the purpose of raising awareness of learners on disaster preparedness.



Celebration of National Disaster Consciousness Month in Lapu-Lapu City

Japan

(1) Central Community Chest of Japan: Kumamoto Earthquake

Completion of the Project

After the occurrence of Kumamoto Earthquake in April 2016, after directing the on-site survey, SEEDS Asia conducted the assistance activities to Uki City Social Welfare Council (the "Council") that has been working on assistance for the affected people in Uki City where about 700 households had to leave their dear old homes and rebuild their lives. Originally, the activities were planned to end in March 2017, but they were extended to July 2017. This is to report the whole story of the activities.



Building Flower Beds by Temporary Housing Residents

First, the activities started with the support for the system construction for a center for assistance for the affected people to be established by the Council. The Council established and operated "Disaster Volunteer Center" to provide emergency support until May, then "Recovery Support Volunteer Center" focused on reconstruction, and after that "Community Mutual Support Center" entrusted by Uki City in October. Upon restructuring the relevant center, many discussions were made among the Council staff and SEEDS Asia in order to construct the system

for action policy of the relevant center, project plan, and division of roles, etc. SEEDS Asia supported the operation of these centers by adding the necessary procedures, and reviewing the project plan from time to time so as to be able to respond to the needs of the affected people on each phase. In addition, SEEDS Asia assisted in conducting (a) "individual support" by visiting each home, understanding the situation, and introducing to the appropriate agencies where needed and (b) "community support" to promote building relationships to support each other among residents by organizing tea parties.

Moreover, SEEDS Asia dispatched an expert with the experience on the reconstruction assistance in Kesennuma. This person shared know-how on the support activity site by the on-the-job training method to the counselor who are obsessed with a lot of questions and anxiety because of the first time experience. The counselor said "The expert taught me what needs to be considered and what needs to be careful about at counseling, told me the story about prospect for the future, and talked about mental health of counselors. This was very useful opportunity for me".

Also, SEEDS Asia helped building various networks such as collaborating to hold "Life Reconstruction Assistance Coordination Meeting" regularly in order to cooperate with the welfare support by the Council, the reconstruction project and health care support by government, and other activities by NPOs, etc., and dispatching volunteers in cooperation with junior high schools in Uki City and Kumamoto University.

SEEDS Asia would like to thank for enormous cooperation in many ways in the activities for the assistance for the affected people by Kumamoto Earthquake, and ask for continuous supports for the affected people by Kumamoto Earthquake in the future.



SEEDS Asia Staff with Community Mutual Support Center Staffs

(2) Joint Project with Tamba City for Community Development

DRR Lecture for Junior High School Students

On 7th July, SEEDS Asia delivered a lecture at Ichijima Junior High School with the theme of "DRR measures that can be taken by junior high school students," telling that it is often said that junior high school students are the most reliable self-help and mutual help actors in time of disasters, especially in aging communities.

In the lecture, an episode was introduced to the students where a ten-year-old British girl encountered the Sumatra Earthquake and tsunami while she was on holidays in Thailand. This episode well explains that even children can save many lives by having acquired proper knowledge about hazards/disasters, and involve others when evacuating.

The students listened to the lecture very carefully in an extremely hot weather. Their feedback to the lecture was brilliant, such as "I never expected an earthquake to occur in Tamba City, but learned that it is just that the possibility is very low. I should start being prepared." and "I want to be ready to involve others and help elderly in evacuation, in case any disaster occurs."

Discussion on Audiovisual DRR Education Material

On 13rd July and 23rd August, seven appointed schools gathered to discuss the initial draft of the audiovisual DRR education material exclusively for Tamba City, based on the City's experience of being hit by the torrential rain in 2014.

In this project, the first year's output was "Kokoro Tsunagu (Bridging Hearts)", the paper medium DRR education materials. Following those materials is an audiovisual material to complement the effectiveness of "Kokoro Tsunagu". The two meetings were held to discuss what kind of video materials would be useful in teaching DRR with "Kokoro Tsunagu".

Teachers from both elementary (each from lower grades and upper grades) and junior high school discussed it over and fruitful opinions were exchanged. Some of which are "We need an interview of the episodes that community members helped each other during the disaster in 2014" and "The video should feature people who are making efforts to vitalize home spirit, so that children will have more thoughts about it."

Results of those discussions will be reflected in the scenario for video shooting.



Discussion over the Audiovisual Material

Participation in Commemoration Event of Tamba

The weekend of 26th August was the days of the commemoration event of the 2014 disaster. One of the programs was the "Forest Walk for Recovery" which included visiting the biggest sediment-controlling dams constructed in Hyogo prefecture after the disaster, and climbing up a beautifully managed forest with the community leader of one of the affected areas. A strong message of the leader impressed the participants - "Those forests have been neglected for a long time due to the declining wood price. We would like to grow healthy forests with a view of 400 years ahead. For this purpose, we shall involve the young, and our activities must not be obtrusive but enjoyable."

In the afternoon, SEEDS Asia was in charge of a booth where participating kids were able to learn about disasters/hazards and make button badges of the City's official mascot character.



Explaining about Disasterst to Kids

(3) JICA Training:

Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction (A)

From 25th July to 25th August 2017, entrusted by JICA Kansai, SEEDS Asia conducted JICA Training "Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction (A)". Nine people involved in disaster management in city, state, and federation level in Brazil participated in this training. The trainees listened to the lectures regarding the role of Japan

as a country and local authorities, and coordination with private sector and residents, and also visited Tamba and Hiroshima to learn about the sediment disaster measures, which is a serious issue in Brazil, and reconstruction efforts.



Lecture at Cabinet Office

It was impressive to see that all trainees enthusiastically listened to all lectures and asked questions so as to utilize what they learned as much as possible in DRR measures in their homeland. They commented that they noticed that Japan puts importance on preparation, private organizations such as companies and NPOs are also prepared with high consciousness, and self-help mutual help spirit is spread among residents, and that they learned a lot. This became a valuable opportunity for those officers in charge of DRR from city level to country level gathered and discussed for about a month. It can be expected that the coordination seen in this training will develop further after they returned to their home country.



Visit of Sediment Controlling Dam
at Hiroshima Sediment Disaster Affected Area

(4) Dispatch of Lecturers to Conduct DRR Class or Event

SEEDS Asia dispatched staff members as lecturers to conduct DRR training or classes in a wide range of methods and contents on the requests from any organizations such as schools, municipalities, residential communities and private sectors. In July and August 2017, our staff members provided the following lectures.

Lecture at Kumamoto University (in Kumamoto Prefecture)

On 12th July, at the class on volunteer theory at Kumamoto

University, a SEEDS Asia staff member delivered a lecture as a guest speaker and introduced about the activities of SEEDS Asia and its assistance for Kumamoto affected people on the theme of "International Cooperation * Disaster Prevention * Volunteer". Some feedbacks from those 145 students listened to the lecture are "Although I thought it requires certain level of preparedness in order to work as a volunteer, I learned that one can start doing something close to oneself. Now I think I can do something." "I learned that a wide perspective is needed for reconstruction assistance." "It was interesting to listen to the experiences in various countries."

In general, SEEDS Asia dispatches staff members to organizations upon request, to give lectures (also with games or picture-card shows) with wide range of targets and topics which relates to our activities. If you are interested in inviting our lecturers on DRR, please kindly contact: SEEDS Asia Headquarters (rep@seedsasia.org).



Lecture at Kumamoto University

Announcements from Headquarters

Executive Director of SEEDS Asia contributed a chapter to "The Way of Global Cooperation concerning Disaster Risk Reduction"

Ms. Yuko Nakagawa, Executive Director of SEEDS Asia, contributed Chapter 9 'Disaster Risk Reduction Education in Asia' to the book "The Way of Global Cooperation concerning Disaster Risk Reduction – global standard and actual on-site condition" editorial supervision by Makoto Iokibe, edited by Yutaka Katayama, published on 30th July 2017 by Minerva Shobo (Kyoto) (pp. 167-184).

