



清水寺で文化財防災について学ぶバラナシからの研修員の様子

Delegation from Varanasi Learning about DRR of Cultural Assets at Kiyomizu Temple

Newsletter

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Bangladesh

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

Japan Study Visit

SEEDS Asia invited delegates from Bangladesh to Kobe City for a Japan study visit from 4th to 11th September. Total of eleven people including officers of Dhaka North City Corporation, ward councilors, community DRR leaders, editors of local media organizations, and SEEDS Asia local staffs participated in the program. It aimed to learn from Kobe City and Kyoto City that experienced the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake, a devastating urban disaster, and bring the learning back to Dhaka to promote community based DRR. The delegation visited the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Museum, Kyoto City Disaster Prevention Center, Crisis Management Department and PR Office of Kobe City, Fire Department, Kobe Newspaper Company, and Bosai Fukushi Community (BOKOMI), learned how those various stakeholders are working on DRR issues, and made an action plan to be carried out after returning home based on the learning.

It was new and surprising for the delegation to observe that local residents take initiative in DRR voluntarily and proactively, that city government issues newsletters and uses it as a tool to raise disaster awareness, and that news organization strongly recognizes the role of media in DRR and continues to write about disaster and DRR. Importance of community DRR has been discussed continuously in Dhaka as well but it was understood much better through the Japan visit. We greatly thank those helped us realize this program for their kind support and cooperation.



Japan Study Visit

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

On 13th October, three model communities participated in the Japan visit organized a DRR event to observe the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. One

community held an awareness session for primary school students and their parents, and taught them what earthquake is about and what they should do at and before the occurrence of an earthquake. Students enjoyed a short drama on preparedness played by the community DRR leaders. In another community, based on the belief that DRR should start from their own family, leaders organized a get-together to invite members' family and discuss about fire prevention and earthquake preparedness by utilizing video clips and quiz competition.

In Dhaka, DRR consciousness of the residents is still low and the degree of recognition of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is very low. This was the first time that local communities organized a DRR event on their own initiative in Dhaka on this International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction and is a significant first step taken towards a resilient city.



DRR Workshop for Elementary School Students conducted by Model Community



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 operated in September and October 2017 were as follows.

Japan Study Visit

From 22nd to 29th October, SEEDS Asia conducted a Japan Study Visit by inviting six people from Climate Schools (CS), and two people from 11th National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in Varanasi, India, totaling eight people. The purpose is to learn about knowledge and experiences of DRR Education and Disaster Management nurtured in Kyoto and strengthen capacity to promote DRR Education and DRR Activities in Varanasi.

In Kyoto City, on 24th October, the first day of the training, the delegation made a courtesy visit to Kyoto City Mayor Kadokawa, and he shared with the participants the policy on DRR and environment in Kyoto City and its achievements with visible examples and data. Then, the participants visited administrative agencies such as Kyoto City Board of Education, and Disaster Prevention and Crisis Management Department of Administrative and Budgetary Bureau of Kyoto City to comprehend the policies on DRR, environment and education. The participants learned that the collaboration between communities and schools has been succeeded for about 150 years in Kyoto City where 64 *Bangumi* (a community unit) Elementary Schools (Japan's first elementary schools) were established by community people in 1869, that DRR Activities in Kyoto City has been developed by schools and communities working together, and that improvements has been sought all the time, for example by setting DRR Education Standard for ensuring the quality of DRR Education in the City. In the afternoon on that day, a visit was made to Takakura Elementary School, which has an attribute of a *Bangumi* Elementary School. The delegation listened to the lectures regarding DRR Education at school and DRR Management and observed a Shake-Out drill during the school visit. The delegation observed that the students cleaning school buildings could take an action to protect themselves swiftly. One of the members commented, "I'm surprised to notice the students rapidly took an action to protect themselves at their own places even if they were concentrating on something else. It is the fruit of drills. I would like to try to realise this at my school."



Courtesy Visit to Mayor of Kyoto City

Since Principal Ranko Kishida of the above-mentioned school visited the DRR Workshop held in Varanasi in August 2016 with Mr. Kō Ota of Bosai Terakoya-Kyoto (Community based DRR Learning Center), the teachers in the delegation were pleased to see her again. Also, the letters as replies addressed to the children in Varanasi written by fifth grade students were given to the delegation. After that, the activities of School Management Committee called "Smile 21 Plan Committee" were introduced. The participants learned how community people have been trying to improve education of children and conducting activities to protect security. Other than the aforementioned school,

the training was conducted by visiting Voluntary Taskforce Group for Protecting Ponto-chō, Kyoto Municipal Horikawa High School, Bosai Terakoya-Kyoto (Community based DRR Learning Center), Kyoto Students FAST (Fire and Safety Team) of Ritsumeikan University, Suzaku Eighth Volunteer Disaster Prevention Team, Kyoto City Disaster Prevention Center, Kiyomizu Temple, volunteer fire corps and volunteer DRR organization of Kiyomizu school district, and water facilities for disaster prevention on cultural assets and vicinity. Some examples of DRR Activities practiced by community people and students were presented to the delegation.

On the final day, the delegates made a presentation of "the message we would like to convey to children in Varanasi" to be put on student's newsletter called "Prahari" in order to be disseminated to all over the city as well as reviewing what they learned during this visit. Then, action plan was made based on the training, and presented what they would like to implement at CSs utilizing what they learned in the training. Many very motivated comments were heard from the delegation as the following: "We were very impressed with the city without any trash on the road, and we understood that the high capacity level of community people helped to develop the City of Kyoto. Without depending on public (government) help, we would like to start promoting activities on environment and DRR at our own schools."



Visit of Network Group on Water Facilities for Disaster Prevention on Cultural Assets and Their Vicinity



Philippines (Cebu)

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

Japan Study Visit

SEEDS Asia conducted a Japan Study Visit (in Hyogo Prefecture) from 5th to 13th September with DRRM (Disaster Risk Reduction and Management) Coordinators

from Department of Education Region 7 and Schools Division Offices under the Region from the pilot cities and municipality in Cebu Province, totaling eleven participants. The Japan Study Visit is part of the capacity building training for DRRM Coordinators who are nominated as School DRRM Instructing Team to fully understand good practices on disaster preparedness and crisis/risk management implemented at schools in Japan, which will become the foundation for the project. A Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer from Mandaue City also participated with the City fund. The program included: lectures by Hyogo Prefectural Board of Education; observation of actual disaster drills at schools; visits to disaster-affected areas and Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRR Museum). At the final workshop the participants presented ideas to improve their school DRRM based on what they learned during the visit. Prior to the training, on 11th, 16th and 29th August, SEEDS Asia conducted a series of pre-departure orientation and preparation meetings to explain the purpose and brief overview of the training, and business customs in Japan. After the visit, one of the participants showed motivation to implement a project to apply the knowhow learned during the training, and made positive comments, "This journey helped me so much to improve my capacity, knowledge and skills to perform my mandated duties. This learning experience will help me efficiently and effectively implement the different programs, activities, and projects of DRRM in collaboration with Division DRRM Coordinators, Local Disaster Risk Reduction Management officers, and other stakeholders in the community".



Group Photo during Study Visit in Japan

Training in the Philippines

In addition to the Japan Study Visit, SEEDS Asia conducted a training in Cebu Province from 16th to 20th October for five days for the School DRRM Instructing Team along with other representatives from the Department of Education Region 7 and Schools Division Offices, total of eighteen participants. The purpose is to strengthen the capacity of the School DRRM Instructing Team. The training consisted of six sessions: introduction, planning, stakeholders' engagement, application exercises, assessment, and

closing, involving thirty trainings with exercises. SEEDS Asia also provided technical lectures by inviting guest speakers such as Officer-in-Charge for Philippines Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, City engineer, Officer for Bureau of Fire Protection, DRR specialist from Manila City, Officer for Department of Social Welfare and Development, Disaster Risk Reduction Officers from Cebu Province and from Talisay City. On the last day, participants took a completion exam for their achievement level evaluation of the training. One of the participants mentioned "In the training, I was able to acquire in-depth understanding of the DRRM system and standards at school for the common goal of life safety and resiliency." SEEDS Asia and the participants will work on making School DRRM Operations Guideline based on this training and Japan Study Visit.



Photo during the Training in the Philippines

Memorandum of Understanding Signing with Cebu City

On 22nd September, signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Cebu City Government, one of the pilot areas, and SEEDS Asia was held in order to strengthen the collaborative partnership between the two parties in implementing the project. The signatory on behalf of the Cebu City Government was the City Mayor - Honorable Tomas Osmeña with Cebu City DRRM Officer-In-Charge - Mr. Nagiel Bañacia as its witness. The ceremony was scheduled after SEEDS Asia met with the Mayor for a Project Commitment meeting held last 28th June. SEEDS Asia is scheduling MoU signings and meetings with other mayors as well to promote the cooperation between education administrations and Disaster Risk Reduction administrations of Local Government Units in pilot areas.



Nepal

Project Funded by Central Community Chest of Japan: Project on Capacity Building of Disaster Risk Management for Village Development Committees (VDCs)

DRR Workshop at Jhangajholi RatamataVDC

After the Nepal Earthquake in April 2015, SEEDS Asia handled emergency support to provide subsistence goods and educational kits. Then, SEEDS Asia has been conducting DRR Workshops with the local NGO, Centre for Disaster and Climate Change Studies (CDCCS), as community DRR activity support for "Build Back Better" reconstruction.



Learning about Disasters at Workshop

DRR Workshop consists of seven-part series, and it is planned to be conducted in three VDCs in Sindhuli District. Following the Purano Jhangajholi VDC where the whole seven workshops were completed in April, the workshop were conducted in Jhangajholi Ratamata VDC from July to September after the election.



Evacuation Drill

In the first four series of the workshops, about twenty VDC members studied about disasters and the outline of laws relating to disasters in Nepal and DRR policies and plans of the governments, and discussed about what needs to be done for DRR in the community. DRR training was planned in the fifth workshop, and the participatory DRR training was conducted in the sixth workshop. 51 residents participated in the workshops also wrote songs and poems concerning disasters, and raised their consciousness for DRR. Some feedbacks in the seventh workshop are: "I understood how to act at disaster." "It was good to learn about various disasters since many people think earthquakes are the only disaster." "I felt that it is better for people in various situations to participate in this kind of workshops."

Next workshop is planned to be held in the third VDC, Kusheshwor Dumja VDC. In addition, many people talked about their own experiences throughout the workshops. These are challenges for DRR and also valuable lessons which needs to be talked about long into the future. A leaflet is planned to be prepared to hand down these lessons from generation to generation.



Evacuation Drill Participants of Jangajholi Ratamata VDC



Japan

(1) Joint Project with Tamba City for Community Development

Teachers' Training at Yoshimi Elementary School

On 27th September, SEEDS Asia was invited to the teachers' training at Yoshimi Elementary School, one of the appointed schools of DRR Education in Tamba City. The talk was about the importance of school DRR and featured an actual school which experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami (GEJET). The emphasis was on what a significant role it can play in emergencies to have a strong partnership between schools and their communities on a daily basis and utilize DRR town-watching and mapping by the partnership.

One young teacher expressed her impression: "Since I have not experienced a huge disaster such as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake or GEJET, I had difficulty conducting DRR Education and imparting the experiences of past disasters to our students. However, the talk made me determined that I myself have to look deeply into those experiences, and must keep discussing with other teachers so that the lives of our students will be protected in emergencies."

DRR Orienteering by Takeda Elementary School

On 25th October, Takeda Elementary School conducted their "DRR Orienteering". This activity combined an existing activity where students visit their local residents and organizations to learn about their home community and DRR Education. The destinations included a farm which was affected by the 2014 torrential rain disaster and is now cropping hydrangea as a recovery project, and an affected temple. Takeda district was affected by the said disaster. The representative of the farm asked the students if their houses were affected by the sediment flows, and one student raised his hand. The representative's message was: "We did not lose hope even in a difficult situation



Visit to the Farm

because of the help received from other people. I hope that all of you will also be able to help others." The priest of the affected temple explained with many photos about the time of the disaster when sediments flew into the main building of the temple. The temple also received help from volunteers in its rehabilitation process which is still ongoing. The importance of life was emphasized in the talks by both of the farm and the temple.

This was the first trial of "DRR Orienteering" by the school. The teachers must have gone through challenges, but this will definitely raise awareness of DRR among the students.



Explanation by the Temple Priest

(2) 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 September and October 2017, our staff members provided the following lectures.

AXA-UNESCO Association Disaster Risk Mitigation Education Program

From 18th to 20th September, SEEDS Asia participated as coordinator and instructor in the Training for Teachers of the Fourth AXA-UNESCO Association Disaster Risk Mitigation Education Program, organized by the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan in cooperation with AXA Life Insurance Co.,Ltd., held in Kesenuma City, Miyagi Prefecture and Ichinoseki City, Iwate Prefecture.

The purpose of this program is to utilize the lessons learned through the visits to the affected areas of the Great East Japan Earthquake in the Disaster Risk Mitigation Education at their own schools. 36 teachers from 22 schools selected from all over Japan gathered and participated in the sessions about ESD (Education for Sustainable Development), Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation Education, network construction, curricula using "Disaster Education Sheet" developed in cooperation



Group Photo with Training Participants

with SEEDS Asia in 2013, and a lecture by the Board of Education in Kesennuma City. They also observed Disaster Risk Reduction classes at Hashikami Elementary School developed based on SEEDS Asia's project on support for the people affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami conducted until last year, visited Koyo High School in Kesennuma City, the disaster remains of the earthquake, and listened to the lecture by the Board of Education in Kesennuma City.



Observation of a Disaster Risk Mitigation Class

During the final workshop, the teachers presented what they learned during the training and their visions. Some participants commented "Various evacuation drills and hazard map makings for the Nankai Trough Earthquake" and "Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation Education with community as the core" are needed or should be introduced. Participants will improve their Disaster Risk Mitigation Education at their own schools, and present their practices and learn from each other during the debrief session in February 2018.

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).

New staff member

Myanmar Office (Yoko Okura)

Hello, my name is Yoko Okura, the incoming Country Representative of SEEDS Asia's Myanmar Office. I am very excited to move to Yangon and experience the rich beautiful culture of the country. My main project will be school/community based disaster risk reduction programs in the Ayeyarwady Region. I graduated from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, with a Master in Public Policy in May 2017. After graduation, I worked with MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) on devising policies to improve post-disaster housing in the United States. I first became interested in disaster preparedness when I worked as a news reporter in Japan covering the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. This event led me to pursue my graduate degree. During graduate school, I realized the importance of community based initiatives when I worked for half a year in Nepal and consulted the Irish government on their flood preparedness policy. I am very excited to be part of SEEDS Asia and look forward to working with you all.

