



受入れて下さった自治体の方から災害時の様子を聞くSEEDS Asia職員（丹波市）
SEEDS Asia staff listening to one of the local community members about the disaster（Tamba City, Japan）

Newsletter

ソフトバンク株式会社のアプリ「かざして基金」で、下記SEEDSのロゴをかざすと簡単にご寄付いただけます。

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Bangladesh

Project on Capacity Building for Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction in Urban Areas of Bangladesh [JICA Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project]

● Eid ul-Azha – Festival of Sacrifice

There are two important festivals in a year in Islam called Eid. One is called Eid ul-Fitr at the end of Ramadan (the month of fasting), and the other is Eid ul-Azha known as the festival of sacrifice which is after 70 days of the first Eid. We observed the festival of sacrifice in the end of August this year. As it becomes a long holiday, it feels like Obon or New year's holiday in Japan as people go back to their native places to spend time with families, leaving the city empty. The Eid sacrifices animals such as cows and goats to god for happy and prosperous life. In Muslim society where the culture of donation, or sharing is enrooted, the meat is equally divided into three and given to one's own family, relatives, and the poor. In communities we work with also, many people went back to villages but they came back to Dhaka by September and started working on DRR again energetically.

● DNCC Published Its Newsletter “Nagoria” !

The beginning was our Japan visit in September last year. Officials of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) incorporated newsletter publication into their action plans after visiting Kobe city government and its PR office and learned how the city had published newsletters over years to get connected with citizens. After internal coordination and preparation, the first DNCC newsletter was published in July! SEEDS Asia provided its technical support to DNCC throughout, from the planning to distribution. This is the first newsletter that a city issue in Bangladesh. The name “Nagoriya” which means “Citizen” was selected from about 200 name ideas given by the citizens in Dhaka. DNCC is often a target of criticism for issues such as waste management and infrastructure development, however, it is never be possible to tackle those issues without people's participation. DNCC aims to establish better communication with people, make the city life better by giving information on services the city provides, and raise awareness of various urban issues including DRR through the newsletter.



“Nagoria” first issue and the city's top management at a press conference

The first publication required a lot of time and effort for planning, internal procedures and formalities, gathering write-ups from different departments, designing and editing, and distribution. However, the initiative was taken up by media in a great way and also warmly welcomed by the citizens. 250,000 copies were printed and delivered to holding tax payers by post. It's also placed in ward offices as well as the city's website so that anyone can read it.

● DRR Equipment Preparation and Practical Skill Training



Community volunteers learning disaster response skills from Fire Service

Our DRR communities are in a process to form disaster response teams that include rescue team, first aid team, fire-fighting team, and others in order to effectively and quickly respond to disasters. While they discuss role of each team in normal time and emergency time, they listed up equipment that would be needed and started preparing them. The equipment is kept in their respective community offices so that anyone can use when required. Seeing the equipment kept in a community office, more residents are taking interested in DRR.

Following the equipment distribution, we have conducted a whole day practical skill training on firefighting and first aid in each community as requested by the community DRR leaders. Professional fire fighter from the nearest station is invited as a trainer, by which we aim to create a connection between community and fire station.

Fire fighters are often seen as heroes in Japan but that's not the case in Bangladesh. Till only about 5 years ago, firefighters used to be beaten by people because they used to reach sites after houses were burnt due to inadequate system, equipment, and skill. With all of that much improved, they are respected in the society today. Practical skill training with the fire service will continue in the coming months as well.



India

Project for Participatory Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction Approaches in Varanasi

【Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA)】

●DRR Study Visit in Japan

From 27th August to 1st September, 7 study-visit members involved in DRR activities in Varanasi, visited Japan to learn about “Community-Based DRR”. The study-visit team was led by Deputy Commandant of 11 NDRF (National Disaster Response Force). In India, shortage of government officials and experts who promotes DRR at the district level is one of the challenges to disseminate DRR widely at grass-roots level. In Varanasi, there is only one expert who manages the entire district. Therefore, strengthening each citizens’ DRR capacity, and developing the capacity of self-help and mutual help are essential. As a government initiative, NDRF regularly conducts DRR trainings for citizens and schools.

The study visit this year touched upon various DRR initiatives and groups in Kyoto, such as Fire Department of Kyoto City and Voluntary Fire Corps, Voluntary DRR Organizations by citizens, Kiyomizu Voluntary DRR Organization by neighbors to preserve cultural heritage, Kyoto Students Fire And Safety Team (FAST), and school and community working on traffic safety together. The delegation learnt how citizens commit to DRR activities as a part of society members. They found that DRR is widely spread and ingrained into the citizens in Kyoto by observing and listening face-to-face to the people living there: They were impressed by the fact that the number of fire incidents reduced by 20% compared to the highest incidents in 1955 with initiative of the government and citizens of Kyoto. Other interesting initiatives included: decreasing the volume of garbage in half compared to 2000, parents and children visiting Kyoto City Disaster Prevention Centre for Citizens run by the municipal government and study DRR even during the weekdays. They observed students from grade 1 to 6 of Kyoto Municipal Takakura Elementary School protect themselves within a few seconds without teachers’ instruction, when they heard the warning announcement at “Shake Out Training”.

SEEDS Asia has aimed to share Japanese lessons learnt and experiences during workshops or trainings including demonstrating ideas/contents that the study-team had never previously experienced. This study visit epitomized a “Seeing is believing” experience for them. One of delegates said “I am eager to bring back what we learnt through the visit to India and develop our DRR activities”.

The study visit programs were made possible with kind cooperation and coordination of Kyoto City, including a courtesy visit to the Mayor of Kyoto. SEEDS Asia would like to take this opportunity to express sincere appreciation to all Kyoto City officials and resource persons in Kyoto who made this study visit successful.



Courtesy visit to the Mayor of Kyoto

●Nomination of “Brand Ambassador”



The ceremony of nomination of “Brand Ambassador”

Members of the Benares Club and Rotary Club who participated in three-day DRR training in June, motivated people in their work place, school, community, and shared what they learnt at the training. For example, members of Benares Club are taking the initiatives such as introducing DRR at the local radio station and conducting CPR training every Sunday. As a result, NDRF and SEEDS Asia decided to nominate 13 members, who will disseminate DRR actively in the future, as “Brand Ambassadors”. The ceremony of nomination was held on 20th July. We look forward to seeing their active involvement!

●Trial Test Workshop on DRR Education App

From 19th to 26th July, SEEDS Asia visited Varanasi with a DRR education expert and conducted the first trial test workshop on the DRR Education App which is under development. Checking the function, visibility of each page, reviewing if the contents are culturally acceptable, and discussion with teachers and students of Climate Schools (CS) and Citizen Forums (CF) were conducted. They gave positive feedback on the App. The App is being developed based on the feedback and is scheduled for launch in October.



Myanmar

Enhancing Comprehensive School Safety in Collaboration with Community in Hinthada Township

【 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) 】

We are delighted to share with you our progress for July and August on our project in Nabekone Village, Hinthada Township, in the Ayeyarwaddy Region. The construction of the school cum shelter is continuing with great care to safety standards for both the building and the working environment. Our workshops and training sessions for disaster risk reduction and community resilience have progressed with the hard work and enthusiasm of the village members. Please read below to learn more!



Class room of ongoing construction

●4th DRR Training Workshop : WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene)



Demonstrating how to correctly wash hands

Nabekone Village, in Hinthada Township, faces challenges in access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities during the flooding season, which often leads to water-borne disease spreading throughout the community. Learning concepts and practical methods on safe water sanitation is especially pertinent to managing the school cum shelter during disaster times. Therefore, on 5th August, we conducted the 5th training on WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) with an expert from the Myanmar Red Cross Society. The 37 participants learned practical knowledge and skills such as the correct ways to wash hands, store cooking water, and secure safe drinking water. High interest was displayed as Nabekone Village is in the midst of monsoon season, and an active Q&A session followed.

The participants of the workshop recognized the relevance of correct understanding and knowledge of water and sanitation for the whole community, and proactively organized a WASH knowledge sharing session for all of Nabekone Village. 21 workshop participants shared knowledge with 115 villagers, including how to prevent water-borne diseases from spreading and ways to secure safe drinking water. The session led to a discussion of how to support especially vulnerable households during flooding season, and a village cooperation mechanism was formed.

●5th DRR Training Workshop: First Aid

Following the workshop on WASH, the fifth DRR workshop was conducted from 25th to 26th August on First Aid. An expert from the Myanmar Red Cross Society with over thirty years of experience joined the training to teach participants skills ranging from proper bandage application to CPR. The need for First Aid training had been advocated by Nabekone villagers as they do not have access to proper health facilities. 37 participants, including members of the First Aid section of the Village Disaster Management Committee learned and practiced basic skills for an intensive two day course. At the end of the training, all 100% of the participants could answer and practically conduct CPR correctly. Daw Swe Mar Win, a teacher at Nabekone Primary School, commented, "I think that teachers will have to be prepared to apply first aid at schools especially as there are many young children who can get hurt. It was a great training because I gained many practical skills such as proper bandaging."



Practicing CPR



Philippines

Support Project on Promotion of School Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Cebu Province

【 JICA Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project 】

● 1st National Conference on the Promotion of School Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

On 31st July, SEEDS Asia together with Department of Education (DepEd) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS) organized 1st National Conference on the Promotion of School Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (SDRRM) in Quezon City, Metro Manila. DepEd Undersecretary Mr. Alain Del B. Pascua, Regional Director of Region 7 Dr. Juliet Jeruta, Senior Representative of JICA Philippines Ms. Ayumu Oshima, delivered opening messages. SEEDS Asia, DepEd DRRMS, and EARTH (Emergency And Rescue Team by school staff in Hyogo) from Japan were main speakers of topics which covered all Pillar 1, 2 and 3 of Comprehensive School Safety. Participants were Regional Directors, Education Support Services Division (ESSD) chiefs, Regional DRRM Coordinators from all Regions, selected Schools Governance and Operations Division (SGOD) chiefs, national government agencies, local government units from Makati City and Cebu Province, DepEd Education Resilience Working Group and Education Cluster Partners, etc., totaling around 100. Participants gave positive feedback such as “The discussions provided us a deeper understanding of DRR concepts and why the government of Japan has to extend assistance in the Philippines through its different organizations like SEEDS Asia, JICA, etc., which is because they value education and their people.”



Presentation by EARTH

● Training and School Safety Inspection with EARTH

On 1st August, SEEDS Asia conducted Capacity Building Training by EARTH to 13 members of School Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Instructing Team (SDRRM-IT) in Quezon City, Metro Manila. EARTH delivered lectures about initiatives and efforts of EARTH and Hyogo Prefectural Board of Education (Hyogo BoE) on the promotion of SDRRM. Participants also enjoyed a game about evacuation shelter management. A participant told that “The Japan’s system that the training showed to me will change our culture.” as his most significant learning during the training.

On 2nd August, SEEDS Asia visited Carcar City Central Elementary School to conduct a School Safety Inspection together with EARTH, as well as some members of SDRRM-IT and Mr. Kim, the DRRM Officer of Carcar City Government. 12 teachers of the School attended to the inspection using a developed inspection checklist by the SDRRM-IT after which EARTH provided practical and meaningful advice. One of the participants said excitedly, “I would like to make this school the first and the safest school in Cebu Province.”



EARTH Training



Safety inspection at Carcar City Central Elementary School

● School Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Team Operations Guideline Workshop

On 6th and 7th August, SEEDS Asia conducted SDRRM Operations Guideline Workshops with SDRRM-IT in Cebu City. The SDRRM-IT were encouraged to review SDRRM Team composition and participate in simulation exercises. These contents will be reflected in the revision of SDRRM Operations Guideline.



Japan

Volunteer Activity

● Volunteer Activity after 2018 Japan Floods

The downpours in July 2018 affected a wide area of Japan, causing landslides and floods. Tamba City was no exception, and encountered the biggest number of damaged houses in Hyogo Prefecture.

As SEEDS Asia has a lot of collaborations with Tamba City, its members, former members and their families gathered together to work as volunteers on 15th July. On the same day, students of Kyoto University and Kansai University of International Studies also joined the activity to serve at an agricultural facility which had been covered by sediments from the mountains, yet was not dealt with by the local volunteer center. The activity was removal of sediments and making sandbags with the sediments to avoid further inundation of the facility from possible succeeding rainfalls.

Tamba City Recovery Promotion Office arranged this activity and local community members warmly accommodated SEEDS Asia with kind instructions and considerations, including providing the participants with their community hall to use as the restrooms and for changing clothes. SEEDS Asia also would like to take this opportunity to express sincere appreciation to the people who supported and donated to this activity. The equipment purchased from their contribution was fully used on that day and made the activity safer and more efficient.

While hearing that the residents and the government officials made use of their own lessons learnt from the disaster of four years ago, including taking initiatives in evacuation in early times or to upper floors when the rain took place, it is truly hoped that a number of the same kind of disasters is not causing the local residents to be worn out.

This torrential rain also affected Shinohara Dai in Kobe City where SEEDS Asia headquarters is located. Therefore, as volunteers, SEEDS Asia members visited the affected area to support removal of sediments on 14th July.

The equipment which was purchased from the supporters' contributions will be lent to those who want to join volunteer activities when any disaster happens in the future. Please contact us, should you need additional information.



SEEDS Asia staff and students from Kansai University of International Studies volunteering at the affected community

Send SEEDS Asia Staff to Lecture

● Presenting at the Panel Discussion in Tamba City's Symposium on Disaster Recovery



Brochure of the symposium

It has been four years since huge torrential rain hit Tamba City from 16th to 17th August in 2014. The Recovery Promotion Office of the City organized a third commemorating event for the disaster called "Bridging Hearts – WASSHOI" on 19th August, and SEEDS Asia was invited to present as a panelist in the panel discussion "What did the disaster mean to you?" as a program within the "Symposium on Disaster Recovery – Going Back on That Day, and Moving on to Tomorrow".

Prior to the panel discussion was a collaborative theatre play by groups in Tamba City, and in Kogomo District in former Yamakoshi Village. The latter was affected by the 2004 Chuetsu Earthquake, so this play was called the "Interactive Play between Disaster-Affected Areas", wherein meaningful messages about the relations between nature-induced disasters and people's ways of living attracted the audience. Following this was the keynote lecture by Dr. Masahiro Sawada of University of Hyogo. Dr. Sawada emphasized that a four-year anniversary could be a time when people get less conscious about the past disaster as restoration works are complete, resulting in less interest in disaster recovery. Yet, he encouraged the audience by stating that it is a good step towards further positive moves if the people in the affected areas can hold on to get over this slump.

In the panel discussion, SEEDS Asia introduced its ongoing initiative of Disaster Recovery (Disaster Risk Reduction) Study Tour as well as its past collaborations with Tamba City. The overall message was about taking pride on the great energy/thrust of the local communities in Tamba City, and disseminating it to people outside. Other panelists were: a community member whose team started a new agricultural initiative with sediments washed away from the mountains; a local government official who was in charge of the most heavily affected area, and currently working towards disaster recovery in the field of agroforestry; and a member of a local volunteer group. All of them shared their exceptional experiences of the times of the disaster and their own perspectives for recovery.