



防災イベントにブース出展 (バングラデシュ)
Booth at IDDR event in Dhaka (Bangladesh)

Newsletter

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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】

● International Day for Disaster Reduction and ShakeOut Drill

Earthquake preparedness in Dhaka is particularly challenging since few people have experience managing it. After SEEDS Asia's trainings and activities, Mohakhali community, one of our DRR model communities, has started the Shake-Out drill to practice Drop, Cover, and Hold On in their community office. Initially the members assumed that disaster drill has to be a big event that involves many public service, however, through discussions with SEEDS Asia, the community core members decided to start a small drill among themselves. "Protect head and ensure safety first, then evacuate to pre-defined evacuation site" – although they checked the procedure before a drill, the first attempt did not go as planned as some members could not move at all and the others ran away outside. After a couple of trials, they were finally able to act calmly. The drill was meaningful because the members realized through their own experience that it was difficult to act as planned unless they practice so that it became automatic. As the Shake-Out drill is simple and easy that anyone can do anywhere, some members brought their family to the community office and practiced together and also did it at their homes.



Shake-Out Drill

Learning from this experience, we came up with the idea of organizing a Shake-Out campaign, involving other DRR communities to observe the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) on October 13. Each community practiced Shake-Out in their respective areas assuming an earthquake occurred in Dhaka. The Shake-Out campaign also called for participation on a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/durjogeamraa/) that was created for DRR communities to communicate and exchange information. The participants shared photos and videos of their drill on the Facebook.

In addition, SEEDS Asia set up a booth at the IDDR conference organized by Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief on the day and introduced the importance of community based DRR and our work with Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC). We also practiced the Shake-Out with spectators at the venue. One of the journalists who participated in our DRR media fellowship program last year, published stories on urban disasters this year, and also highlighted the day.

● DRR Training for City Corporation Employees



Training for city corporation employees

DNCC is setting up an emergency response center in each of the five zones as a part of the World Bank's urban resilience project. The city aims to establish "zone disaster incident management teams". Since employees' capacity building on DRR is needed urgently, SEEDS Asia assists DNCC with training for city employees as their capacity development is crucial for promoting community based DRR in the city. The training was started in October and three have been conducted so far.

The zone offices do not have a department dedicated to disaster management, so the participants came from various departments including health, tax, waste management, and administration. In the training, the purpose of emergency response center, on-going DRR projects of DNCC, disasters in Bangladesh, concept of DRR, and disaster risks in Dhaka with learnings from the Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake were discussed. SEEDS Asia will continue providing technical support to the city to hold training for its employees to further contribute to make the city safer.



India

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

【Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA)】

●Initiatives in Learning from DRR Study Visit in Japan

During the last week of August, SEEDS Asia invited 11 NDRF (National Disaster Response Force) and citizens from Varanasi, and conducted a DRR study visit in Japan. The delegates have started their own DRR activities since they returned to Varanasi. Among the participants, members of Benares Club effectively involve community people. In June, DRR leader’s training was implemented to the voluntary members of Benares Club and Rotary Club, and 13 members who play the most active roles in DRR activity were nominated as “Brand Ambassador” by NDRF and SEEDS Asia in July. Two of them who visited Japan as a part of the DRR study in August shared about DRR initiatives in Japan to the other Ambassadors after their visit.

The Ambassadors were inspired by the DRR activities conducted in Japan, and started implementing further DRR awareness activities with the idea “Anybody, Anytime, Anything”. In September, CPR training was implemented to the female group of Rotary Club, as well as fire drill, evacuation drill and a training of household garbage disposal were conducted to the apartment community called Krishna Virat Apartment Society. In October, a variety of trainings: basic concept of DRR, evacuation method in disasters, first aid, fire prevention and traffic safety were conducted in Arya Mahila School. Through the study visit in Japan, Ambassadors reconfirmed the importance of “raising community people’s awareness” and “initiatives by citizens”. Now they motivate people not only in their own community, but all over Varanasi voluntarily!



Training to the female group of Rotary Club



Sharing what they learnt at the training

●Completion of DRR Education App

The DRR Education App produced with itnav Co., Ltd. from Ishinomaki City, Miyagi prefecture was completed and will be launched at the DRR campaign in November. The app is a DRR education material composed of 3 parts: “Know - learning DRR with quizzes”, “Feel - feeling disasters with videos”, “Do - make a move towards DRR initiatives”. It helps our visit to Varanasi since the app also shows us the weather condition and air quality in Varanasi. India is well known for its severe air pollution. In winter, PM 2.5 level is often over 300 in urban areas of India. SEEDS Asia hopes many people will utilize this app and become familiar to DRR. Please visit the web app at: <https://disastersafetygame.net/>



Students enjoying the DRR education app

The Citizen DRR Activity Promotion Centre, which provides information, skills and knowledge for making the city resilient to disaster by utilizing of linkages and collaboration in Varanasi, will open this December! Please don’t miss next Newsletter to learn more!



Myanmar

Enhancing Comprehensive School Safety in Collaboration with Community in Hinthada Township

【 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) 】

Construction of the school-cum-shelter is continuing toward its completion in Nabekone Village, Hinthada Township in Ayeyarwaddy Region while training for the school and community people to develop their DRR capacity are continuously conducted. On 26th October, the donation ceremony was held in Tamba City, Japan for the unused school furniture from Tamba that is to be given to the school cum shelter in Nabekone Village. The detail update on activities during September to October are as below.

●6th DRR Training Workshop : Village Disaster Management Committee

In 2015, massive flood was observed from the north to the south west of the country, and Ayeyarwady Region was also severely affected. Our project target area, Nabegon village in Hithada township also experienced highest level of inundation in recorded history though the village face flood annually. It caused significant damages such as collapses of housings and destroying livelihood as well as disturbance of education continuity. In order to minimize the emerging hydro-meteorological hazard risk associated with climate change, the school-cum-shelter is being constructed under the project as an evacuation centre for the village. Along with construction, plans and consensus-building such as evacuation plan, early warning plan, shelter management plan, education continuity plan etc. are also required to manage the shelter to secure the lives.

Considering these requirements, SEEDS Asia conducted the sixth session on 5th September, focusing on a review of disaster risk reduction concepts, and resources and vulnerabilities of Nabekone Village. The participants from designated village disaster management committee proceeded to the first step of creating a disaster management plan, by identifying the needs and actions in the preparedness, response, and recovery phases for each sub-committee. U Than Soe, from Hinthada District Department of Disaster Management, also joined the session to observe and give feedback to discussions.



Group discussion

●7th DRR Training Workshop: Disaster History of Dike, and Search & Rescue Training



Practical training by the fire department

On 29th and 30th September, SEEDS Asia conducted the seventh session focused on learning about the disaster history of the dike from the Department of Irrigation, and a Search & Rescue training with guidance from the fire department. Participants learned numerous practical skills useful in emergencies, such as how to extinguish fires, construct tube wells, conduct life-saving in water, and knit ropes for rescue and relief. The participants asked questions such as “How can I learn more about dikes?”, “What kind of premonitory phenomena we can see before a dike collapses?”. The Department of Irrigation suggested to open a small museum of dikes to learn more, and gave them advise to observe carefully if there is any water leaks because water level would rise with heavy rainfall and river flow, before a dike collapses.

●8th DRR Training Workshop: Disaster Management Plan

On 20th and 21st October, the eighth session on table top evacuation exercise was conducted by utilising a layout plan of the shelter cum school in Nabegon Village and household information cards which contains information of every household of the village in each card. The session was held to imagine the realistic situation to handle different types of possible troubles such as “Cannot hear the early waring due to heavy rain”, “Cannot use the mobile phone”, “The village head is not able to come back from Yangon”, “School principal who has the key of storehouse has lost the key” etc. U Than Soe, from Hinthada District Department of Disaster Management, also joined the session on the second day. He shared his experiences in past disasters which enriched the village disaster management manual by defining who will do what and how in every phase of disaster management as a follow up activities after the 6th session on disaster management plan.



Philippines

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

[JICA Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project]

● School Safety Inspection Workshop and Manual Critiquing

In July and August, SEEDS Asia conducted safety inspection workshops in Pilot Schools in order to list up items needed in safety inspection manuals, and explained how to draft those manuals. School Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Instructing Team (SDRRM-IT), Department of Education (DepEd) Division Engineer, teachers of Pilot schools, Local Government Unit DRRM Offices, Office of the Building Official, Community, Philippine National Police, and Bureau of Fire Protection participated. Stakeholders gave comments such as “We are always ready to assist and support anytime, in conducting lectures and drills”, “We can allocate budget to support the programs and projects of schools”, and committed their support to the project.



School safety manual critiquing

After the workshops, teachers drafted a manual with the support of SDRRM-IT and other participants of the workshop, using templates SEEDS Asia and SDRRM-IT provided. SEEDS Asia also conducted a critique of these manuals with each Pilot School. In addition to the participants of the workshop, In the critiquing sessions, Department of Public Works and Highways also participated, and each participant provided advice to the schools about the contents of the manuals, and discussed the frequency of school safety inspections. Participants provided comments such as “Evacuation area should be reconsidered”, “If there is a newly constructed building, the school should ask the contractor for a copy of the plan”, “Follow the standards based on the WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Program”. Schools are revising their manuals based on these pieces of advice and preparing for a first printing of the revised draft manuals.

● Memorandum of Understanding Signing with Cebu Province, Memorandum of Agreement Signing with Four Department of Education Pilot Divisions



MoU signing with Cebu Province

In order to avoid considering School DRRM done only by schools, but to consider it sustainable activities with policies and budget, SEEDS Asia plans to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Local Government Units and enforce the cooperation towards current DRRM Project. SEEDS Asia has already signed MoUs with six Cities and Municipalities. On October 8th, SEEDS Asia also signed an MoU with Cebu Province.

SEEDS Asia also seeks enhancement of cooperation with DepEd Division Offices. SEEDS Asia signed Memoranda of Agreement on 24th September with Talisay City Division, on 18th October with City of Naga Division, on 22th with Mandaue City Division, and on 26th with Cebu Province Division. In next fiscal year, each Schools Division Superintendent will be invited to Japan Study Visit, and prior to the Visit,

they gave comments such as “I want to visit Hyogo Prefectural Board of Education and schools to observe School DRRM initiatives for sustainability”, “I want to exchange ideas through interviews”.



Halo-halo, Symbolic Dessert of the Philippines

Though there are dry and rainy seasons, the Philippines enjoy mild weather all year around. They like “Halo-halo”, Japanese *Kakigori* (shaved ice dessert) like dessert. “Halo-halo” means “Mixture” in the Filipino (Tagalog) language. This dessert contains ice, beans, fruits, jellies, ice cream, corns, and so on. The Philippines have multiple cultures, because of their history of colonization. There are several ethnic groups such as Malay, Chinese, Spanish origins, etc. With more than 7,000 islands, there are 172 languages. Many Filipinos speak their mother tongue in their region, Filipino (mainly spoken in Manila), and English. This diversity with “mixture” is a major of the Philippines.



Halo-halo



Japan

Tamba City Revitalizing City Promotion Partnership Project

【Tamba City, Hyogo】

● Study Tour for Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) Visiting Researchers

On 16th October, three Visiting Researchers (VR) at Asian Disaster Reduction Center in Kobe, participated in the study tour. The VRs are from India, Malaysia and the Maldives, and are all working on their research while visiting different places in Japan. This was their first visit to Tamba City!

After visiting Kita-Okamoto, where forest management from the viewpoint of disaster risk reduction is ongoing, the VR visited restored areas after the rain disaster in August 2014, as well as a group who started their activities after being engaged in food distribution when the same disaster occurred. A VR asked: "How much is the cost of constructing this sabo (erosion control) dam?" the answer to which she mentioned is "not a big amount of money in order to protect the lives of the people". When they interacted with the local residents, interesting information about the origins of the names of places in Tamba City and about the dinosaur fossils found in the City was shared, which even locals barely know, and the VR were actively communicating with them.



Visiting Researchers taking pictures of erosion control dam

● Study Tour for Students at Graduate School of Disaster Resilience and Governance, University of Hyogo



Students observing bamboo trees logged

From 29th to 30th October, four students and two faculty members of the Graduate School of Disaster Resilience and Governance of University of Hyogo participated in the study tour. Hosts were two different person/organization (Kita-Okamoto in Ichijima-cho and Hiramatsu District Forest Club in Kasuga-cho) who are engaging in forest management. Even though their sites and activities may be different, their goals was the same: to make the community safer and vitalized through forest management. By actually walking through the forest under management, the participants were able to feel how humans can build relations with nature, and significance of much efforts. The participating students asked questions like: "What age group do you mean by saying "young generation"? (answer: in their 50s and 60s!); "How do you know who are the owners of those forests?"; and "Where are the timber from thinning activities going?", which made the participants understand more deeply about each initiative.

Additionally, harvesting activity of black beans (delicacy of Tamba!) and potatoes, walks in the forest, and meals with local ingredients were also carried out. The Tamba City Study Tour is a place where study as well as communication with local residents and beautiful food.

Invitation to Study Tour in Tamba City

This year, the tour on Saturday, 23rd December is open. You may participate in activities in the forest and straw rope-making (preparing a traditional decoration item for New Year's) combined with rice cake pounding. The activity in the forest can be arranged based on the request by the participants: from a casual walk in the forest to demonstrative tree-thinning or assisting shipment of timbers. The rice cake pounding activity will be using the red beans that are grown in a land affected by the 2014 disaster and are to be harvested on 23rd November for the first time after the disaster. In the activity, participants may ask the residents what kind of initiatives they are taking towards what definition of disaster recovery. Through experiential learning, why not think about disaster risk reduction, disaster recovery and community development? Please contact us if you would like to participate in a future study tour or have any inquiry about the detail including how to get to Tamba City.

Delivery Lecture

●IATSS Forum

On 7th October, SEEDS Asia gave a lecture on “Support for Community Planning and DRR Activities in Recovery Process by NGO -From Experiences from Myanmar-” to a delegation consisting of young and energetic government officials, entrepreneurs, doctors and educationists etc. from ASEAN countries who were selected and invited by IATSS Forum from Suzuka city, Mie prefecture. Since Asian countries are facing higher hazard risks than the other regions of the world, we wish the members to start taking actions for disaster risk reduction in each field to secure the lives and properties as well as to achieve sustainable development. By taking this opportunity, SEEDS Asia would like to express our gratitude to IATSS Forum for connecting us with members from ASEAN countries in Kobe on a regular basis!



Group photo with IATSS Forum participants

●Peace, Health and Human Development (PHD) Foundation

On 9th October, SEEDS Asia dispatched a staff members as a lecturer to an NGO in Kobe called Peace, Health and Human Development (PHD) to share our experience themed on “DRR Activities in Asia with a message from Kobe –” to three trainees from Indonesia, Myanmar and Nepal who were invited by PHD. Ms. Sabina from Nepal commented “I would like to study disaster history of my village” as she learnt the importance of knowing past disasters. A trainee from Indonesia understood the importance of preparedness deeply to save more lives since tsunami hit her country just a few days ago and emphasized that “Preparedness is the most important action. I hope we can conduct evacuation drills and trainings how to use extinguisher.” The trainee from Myanmar who often teaches students at Buddhist monastery was motivated in DRR education and saying that “I would like to teach my students preparedness before disasters.” SEEDS Asia hopes they take back what they learnt and promote DRR in their countries. We thank The PHD Foundation for giving us the opportunity to share our initiatives!

Announcement

●Donation Ceremony for "Tamba City Bridging Heart Project"



The Mayor of Tamba City and SEEDS Asia staff at the donation ceremony

On 26th October, the donation ceremony along with press conference was held at Tamba City Hall for the "Tamba City Bridging Heart Project" wherein unused school furniture from Tamba is to be given to an elementary school in Myanmar. SEEDS Asia presented our sincerest gratitude to all the people concerned, and had a chance to explain the project brief to the media. Mr. Taniguchi, the Mayor of the City shared his words regarding the donation and handed over the letter of presentation (trilingual in Japanese, English and Burmese) with the logo of "Kokoro Tsunagu (Bridging Hearts)" as the phrase representing the recovery from flooding of 2014 which took place in Tamba, to SEEDS Asia. We are overwhelmed with the fact that "Bridging Hearts" with thankfulness and values on homelands is prevailing to Myanmar by our strong partnership with so many people.