



News Letter No. 5

The Project for Building Disaster Resilient Societies In the Central Region in Vietnam

January 1st, 2012

1. Introduction

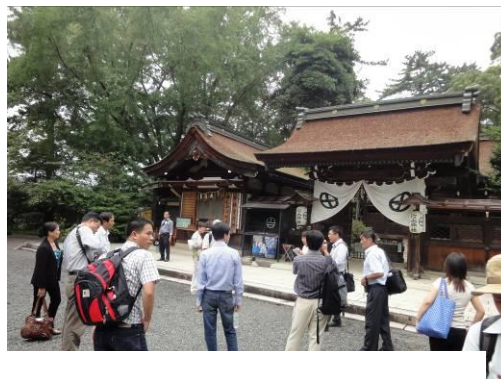
The Project for Building Disaster Resilient Societies In the Central Region in Vietnam has been carried out by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). The project was started in March 2009 and will be continued to February 2012. Now various outputs are emerging in relation to the termination of the project. This newsletter reports on activities in the training in Japan and various activities in the second half of 2011.

2. Training in Japan

The third training in Japan was held from August 1st to 10th inviting 12 Vietnamese persons. The training sessions in Japan were held last year and two years ago. This year, considering the inconvenience of the electrical conditions, the training was held in mainly central Japan and western Japan. The main contents and places visited for the training is as follows. Plentiful information and sufficient lecture / explanation was supplied in all the places visited. The weather condition during training was very hot but all Vietnamese trainees studied enthusiastically without showing any fatigue.

<History of river management, river bank protection and facilities for river management at Gifu>

They visited the Kiso River management Office, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT). The Kiso three rivers area is noted for Japanese river management history and many types of river bank protection can be found here. The training must have been very useful for the river management in Vietnam.



<Integrated River Management at Yodo river>

Trainees learned river management history and facilities in the Yodo river at the Yodo river management office and Yodo river museum. The Yodo river has a very old history of river management and struggled with floods in recent years. The condition and the problem of environment / flood of the Yodo river is similar to the river in Central Vietnam. An active discussion was held between Japanese and Vietnamese.



Yodo river museum



Left bank of Yodo river (Hirakata)

<Integrated dam management at Yodo river>

A lecture for integrated dam management at the Yodo River Integrated Dam Management Office and a visit to Amagase Dam was held. Recently, dam management for flood control has become a big issue in central Vietnam. This training will be a very useful for the trainees.



Lecture at Yodo river integrated dam management office



Visiting to Amagase Dam

<Visiting Community Disaster Management activities in Kobe>

NGO SEEDS Asia arranged a lecture and visit of the community disaster management in Kobe. The trainees visited the community of Uozaki town and Hiyodori town in Kobe. The trainees were impressed by the various activities of Japanese community and the heartfelt welcome by the residents.



Lecture at Uozakitown



Visiting Hiyodori town

<Earthquake and Tsunami training at Kobe, Osaka>

The trainees visited the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution in Kobe and Tsunami and the High-Tide Station Center in Osaka. There is less possibility of earthquake and tsunami disaster in Vietnam. However, the possibility of Tsunami caused by the Manila earthquake is feared now. All trainees learned much about earthquake and tsunami disasters.

3. General Training Workshop for Disaster Management

A general training workshop was held on July 26 and 27 under the cooperation of DMC (Disaster Management Center), MARD and JICA expert team. The workshop is composed of three themes which are: 1) Flood simulation and hazard mapping, 2) Community disaster management and 3) Low cost and small scale river bank management. In the workshop, site visiting was held to see the situation of community disaster management and river bank protection in pilot sites. Sixty four engineers mainly from 19 provinces in central Vietnam attended this workshop and had meaningful discussions during the two days.



Attendants from Central Vietnam



Visiting Community Disaster program

4. Terminal Evaluation was completed

A terminal evaluation survey was carried out for about three weeks. The result of the evaluation was approved by the JCC meeting with the presence of Vice minister Dr. Hoc MARD. It was confirmed that there were some problems in the early stages but a fruitful result was achieved by the arrangement of the experts who were dispatched, and the high ownership of the Vietnamese side.

5. Dam Management Training at Hue

The counterpart organization DARD Hue held dam management training on November 25. In this training, the long term JICA expert lectured on dam safety management. Nowadays, the fear of dam safety is being raised all over Vietnam. Responding to this, the training was held to upgrade the ability of the technique of dam management.

The JICA expert gave a lecture of institution of dam inspection in Japan, manual for storage reservoir at Totori Prefecture Japan and calculation of flood management effects by the dam in T.T.Hue. Further, the “storage reservoir inspection manual” was translated and distributed by the cooperation of the JICA expert and Japan Water Agency. Attendants commented that this manual is very useful because the dense contents were easy to understand by use of pictures. It will be greatly utilized for the dam management in Vietnam.



6. JICA expert appeared on TV discussion program

The JICA expert appeared as commentator on the TV discussion program “Disaster Management and Climate Change at coastal area” broadcast by the Vietnam state run station Hue branch office. The purpose and outputs of the project were introduced with various pictures of the project. Further, some questions such as “What must be done to cope with natural disasters in Vietnam”, “Any suggestion for tsunami disasters in Vietnam?” came to the expert from the attendants and hotlines. This program was broadcast from 09:00 AM to 10:45 AM on October 22. There is a possibility that this program will be sent to Hanoi and broadcast all over Vietnam.



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