

Newsletter on DMSP/FU (DWIDP) from JICA Nepal

A follow-up program of the Disaster Mitigation Support Program Project (DMSP)

Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention
(DWIDP) of Ministry of Water Resources

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This year is really an important year in terms of sabo (erosion and sediment control) and flood control, which I feel strongly by observing the situations here in Nepal and knowing the hardships in Japan. This year, a total of 10 typhoons, landed in Japan causing severe damage due to torrential rains. And then, the major scale Chuetsu Earthquake occurred in Niigata Prefecture with serious damage to many people and structures. Here in Nepal, rainy and cloudy days continued in early October and people began to murmur that this year's weather was strange though the rainy season had ended.



Landslide disaster in Dovan, causing 11 people dead

However, as is said from the olden times that the weather becomes fine around the time of the "Dasain" (the biggest festivity in Nepal, which is like the New Year's Day and the Bon Festival in Japan coming together), the temperatures abruptly dropped with a strong rain and hail on Oct. 12 immediately before the start of the festival, and the sky over Katmandu became perfectly clear. People could look up at the magnificent view of the Himalayas with snow-capped

pinnacles. During the "Dasain" (the official holiday is six days but the celebration continues for 15 days, during which Nepalese people return to their hometowns and have a good time with families and relatives.), Nepalese people become overjoyed and forget all about their work (even the Maoist group and the Government announced a temporary cease-fire).

However, natural disasters do not take holidays even during the Dasain. This year, probably due to rains that continued up to early October, landslides and sediment failures ensued at trunk roads, burying a bus under the debris at one site. Because of the delay in restorations of damage caused by heavy rains last year and this year, only one lane is open for traffic at many locations on trunk roads such as the Mugling-Narayanghat road, causing serious obstructions to bus services which carries numbers of

people to their hometowns. We, as technical experts working for the follow-up program, we were asked to conduct a site survey and give some advice on the restoration of the roads from the Department of Roads. Site survey to these disaster sites is currently planned in November.

Following the Dasain, another festival called "Tihar" known for its fantastic illumination comes in November. People enjoying festivals are beaming and very calm. Through those celebrations, we suppose that they are praying for the days to come when peace is given to their hands. We, as technical experts in Nepal, will also continue our efforts so that natural disasters as well as the people suffering from them will be minimized in this country.

An international seminar sponsored by Nepal Geological Society was held.

An international seminar with the theme of "Learning from Today's Disaster for Tomorrow's Hazards" was held on Oct. 13 under the sponsorship of Nepal Geological Society and with the support of Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention



Opening ceremony of the seminar
(Director General Regmee and Minister Sharma,
from right to left)

(DWIDP), Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Mines and Geology, and United Nations Development Program (UNDP). At the opening, President TULADAR of Nepal Geological Society (who is Director of the Sabo Division at the DWIDP) gave the welcome speech, followed by the opening addresses by Minister SHARMA of Water Resources who was the guest of honor and Director General REGMEE of DWIDP who served as a chairperson of the seminar.

Active presentations and exchange of opinions took place on the seminar, which consisted of three sessions: [1] Measures and plans of risk management, [2] Risk management against earthquakes, [3] Approach to disaster risk management from geology and GIS.

Major events & topics

Members of "Mt. Tateyama Sabo Women's Salon" group visited Nepal for a study tour

On October 7, about 30 members of "Mt. Tateyama Sabo Women's Salon" group (headed by Kakuko YOSHITOMO) visited DWIDP and the Matatirtha area on the outskirts of Katmandu where 16 people were killed in a debris flow disaster that occurred two years ago. This group was formed three years ago by the participants of a site visit program for women, which was started when Yuji MORIYAMA, currently chief advisor of JICA Nepal, was the director of the Tateyama Sabo Work Office of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) in Toyama Prefecture. To mark the third anniversary of its establishment, the group decided to visit Nepal with the hope of reconfirming their commitments around Mt. Tateyama and its caldera area by visiting the debris flow disaster site in Nepal.



Members of "Mt. Tateyama Sabo Women's Salon" group (at the disaster site)

At the disaster site, they saw fierce scars of the debris flow with their own eyes and deeply recognized that technical cooperation to Nepal in the field of sabo and flood control is very important.

The study tour group also visited Shree Seti Devi Elementary School which was damaged by the debris during the disaster and presented clothing and stationery brought from Toyama, and paper cranes folded by schoolchildren in Toyama.

This study tour was held under the joint sponsorship with the Kitanippon Newspaper Co. located in Toyama Prefecture. Tomoko TATENO, Deputy Director of the company's Culture Division came to Nepal with them. The article of the group's visit was reported in the morning edition of the newspaper on Oct. 8.

Stationery from Japan is presented to elementary and junior high schools in Chhampi Village

On October 10, stationery from Japan was presented to Shree, Chhampi, and Devi Elementary and Junior High Schools in Chhampi Village on the outskirts of Katmandu which participated in the composition contest sponsored by the Nepal-Japan Friendship Association for Water Induced Disaster Prevention (NPO). The stationery was a present from Tadahiro MATSUSHITA, a member of the House of Representatives of the Japanese Diet and Director of Nepal-Japan Friendship Association of Diet Members, and from those who supported his activity. Thank you very much!



Stationery was presented to Principle Goutam as the representative

Follow-up activities under way

A field survey was conducted to select a model site for the establishment of a disaster restoration system in local areas.

Currently, a field survey is being conducted at disaster locations near Katmandu to select a model work site for disaster restoration projects to be carried out by local offices.

On October 18 (Monday), we visited the disaster site in Sakhu Village in Katmandu which falls under the work district of Division Office No. 4 of the DWIDP. Participants of this field survey were, from the DWIDP, Y. MORIYAMA and Y. SUMI who are JICA experts, and Director Sthapit of the Disaster Restoration Division, and, from Division Office No.4, Dhata who is an engineer.



The substructure of the bridge is severely scoured.

Both the front and back sides of the bridge at this site were severely scoured by a heavy rain during the rainy season this year, and the substructure of the bridge which serves as a part of community road has been unstable. An important Hindu facility is located immediately below this bridge and people purify their bodies in the river when a ritual takes place. However, due to severe deposition of sediment transported from the upstream, the riverbed is aggraded and the revetment works protecting the facility is buried under the debris. Slope failure is also seen at the slope on the other side of the river.

This site is near the center of Sakhu Village and a famous temple is situated nearby. It is a location within one-hour drive from the center of Katmandu. It is a location where many people gather, and the bridge on the upstream side is an important facility carrying a road through which people can get access to other communities or to agricultural fields.



Deposition near the downstream Hindu facility

As seen, this site seems to have a very high potential in terms of project effect and its contribution to people's daily life.

From now, we will make a survey and prepare a restoration plan smoothly, and then start the work at this site so that local offices can learn the ways of disaster restoration.

(Prepared by Y. SUMI, JICA expert)

Many visitors, many activities

(1) On October 11, Tetsushi TACHIKAWA of Earth Remote Sensing Data Analysis Center and Masao KONNO and Itaru MORITA of the Research Institute of Nippon Koei, Co., who came to Nepal for the R&D survey of slope failure prevention technology for



Tachikawa, Morita, and Konno, from left to right

oil pipeline systems in the mountainous area utilizing satellite images, visited the JICA Nepal office. They came to our office to collect information on the research situation of this field in Nepal and the conditions around the Mugling-Narayanghat road where they planned to make a field survey.

(2) On October 14, Hiroshi Kouno (former Deputy Director General of the Public Works Research Institute) and Kazumasa SUZUKI who were sent to Bhutan as senior volunteers, visited the JICA Nepal office for information exchange. They were the attendees of the JICA Wide-Area Seminar held in Pokhara.



Kouno, right end, Suzuki, left end

(3) On October 26, Tsukasa YOKOYAMA, an editorial board member and analysis board member, and Makoto HORI, a staff member at the editorial division, of Kyodo



Hori, Acharya, and Yokoyama, from left to right

News Service visited the JICA Nepal office by the introduction of Madhav Acharya who is a Kyodo's correspondent in Nepal. They visited our office to collect research-related information to cover the topic of "Damage due to Glacier Lake Flood Outburst (GLFO)" in Nepal after having covered the topic of "Rise of the sea level" in Bangladesh, in order to create a special edition featuring global warming. We

introduced the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology and the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) as related organizations.

Disaster Report

Disaster occurrence has been reported as shown in the table.

| Disaster type (1.1~10.11) | No. of disasters | The killed and missing (man) | The injured (man) | Houses of total collapse (No.) | Houses of half collapse (No.) |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Flood | 71 | 122 | 0 | 111 | 253 |
| Sediment-related disaster | 18 | 40 | 7 | 3 | 18 |
| Total | 89 | 162 | 7 | 114 | 271 |

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