

APEC international training course, "Human capacity building for natural hazard mitigation in cities and coastal regions"

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Geological Survey of Japan (GSJ) in National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) held an international training course titled "Human capacity building for natural hazard mitigation in cities and coastal regions" from November 7th through 25th in 2008. This training course is one of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation's (APEC's) projects which were approved and supported by Industrial Science and Technology Working Group (IST-WG) in the APEC. Densely populated regions are sometimes suffered from volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides and some other environmental impacts. Subjects of the training course are natural hazard mitigation and risk governance in cities and coastal regions, and the aim of the project is technology transfer to APEC members, especially developing countries. After advertising and selecting trainees, nine researchers from six countries, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippine, Thailand and Vietnam, arrived at the GSJ in AIST Tsukuba Center and participated the training course. The trainees are all technical experts practicing hazard program and risk management in their countries. There are 13 indoor lectures at the GSJ, including three lectures by invited staffs from University of Oregon, Tsukuba University and Nihon University. We visited National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention in the same city, and went out to Tokyo to visit Earthquake Research Institute, University of Tokyo, and Tokyo Metropolitan Disaster Prevention Center. The trainees had lectures and tours in those institutions. We also took a day trip to a field seminar along Kujukuri coastline on Boso peninsula to learn coastal sedimentation and erosion. During the other field seminar of three days, we visited trench excavation sites at an active fault along Itoigawa-Shizuoka Tectonic Line, and looked around surrounding areas in Fuji volcano. Thus, the training course was composed of various kinds of methodologies and the latest technologies, which the GSJ and the other institutions have acquired so far. We successfully achieved all the originally planned subjects. This brought about guidelines on natural hazard mitigation to enhance human security and ensure sustainable development in the trainees' countries. And, this also contributes much to development of an international communication network for the future. This project was put down as IST 01/2008A in the APEC.